

[Eveline Pye: Three Poems](#) [1]

April 11, 2016 [Math Poetry](#) [2]

Celestial Navigation

a three-dimensional universe
icosahedron
suspended from the ceiling

a surge of electricity
orange becomes yellow
casts a bright shadow

a tiger moth is drawn inside
this triangular world
sun bulb at its center

its chitin wings slowly singe
and it burns
in the bliss of incongruence

Three



grew in arithmetical series
If my garden of numbers

then beyond the lawn

would be geometric
 my pink pencil would fill
 space with paper roses

clematis would climb
 the lover's arch
 bounded by thistles

we would grow
 away then together
 graft each onto the other

thistle clematis rose
 assisted reproduction
 a child with three parents

The Law of Statistics

for Sally Clark 1964 – 2007

You, Sally Clark, solicitor,
discover your son, Christopher
dead in his Moses basket. Harry, born
a year later, dies in his bouncy chair.

Pediatrician for the Crown,
Sir Roy Meadow, tells the jury
two cot deaths in the same family
would occur only once in a century.

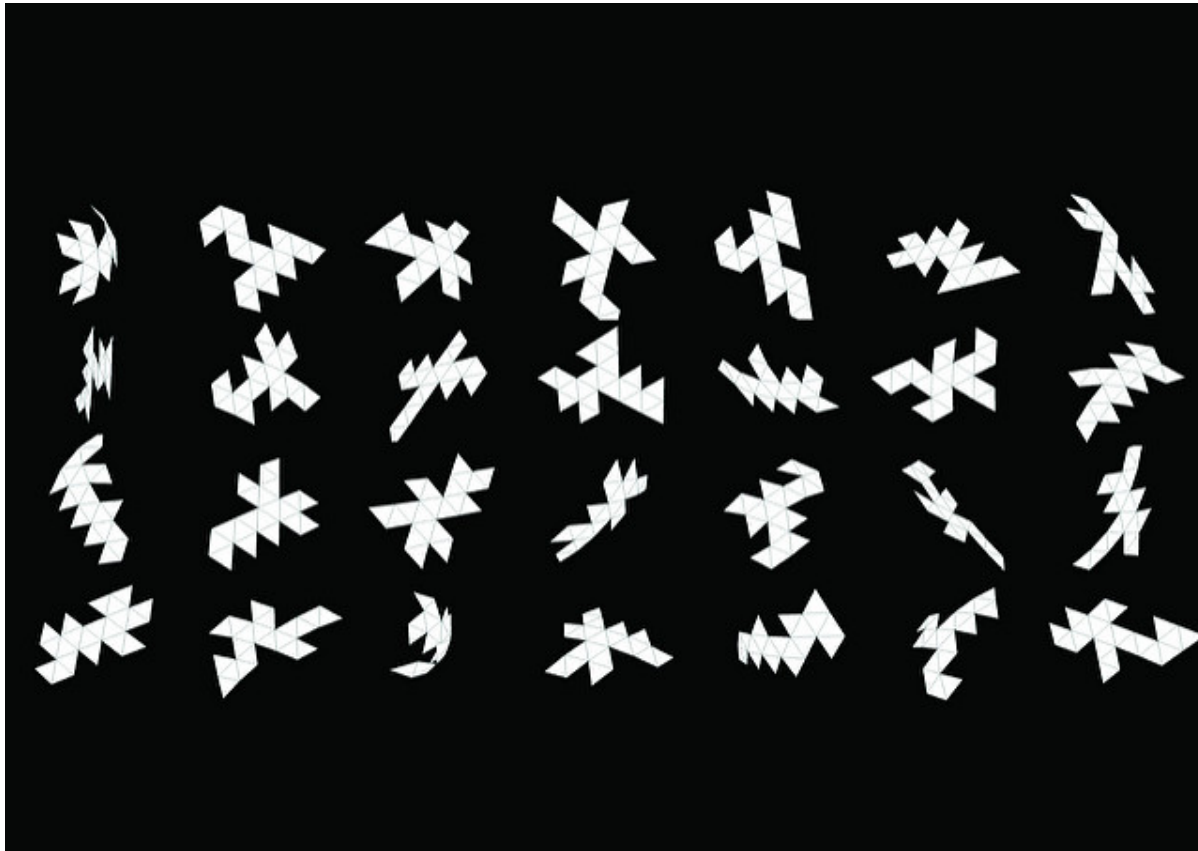
Odds are one in seventy-three million,
lower than the lottery, beyond all
reasonable doubt. An easy decision:
You must be guilty.

At Styal Prison, the horde screams,
Here's the nonce! Die woman, die!
They bang on the door, clamber up,
gawp as you cringe in a holding cell.

At the second appeal, your body
is free but your mind has crumpled.
You drink until you die,
your third son, left without a mother.

I tell this story to my medical students,
show death by natural causes
was more likely than murder.

Silence



Art Information

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Eveline Pye was an operational research analyst in the Zambian Copper Industry, before lecturing in statistics at Glasgow Caledonian University for 22 years. Her statistical poetry was featured in *Significance*, the joint magazine of the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association in their *Life in Statistics* series. Her poems appear in the *Bridges 2013 Poetry Anthology* (in the “Enschede” section, Tessellations Publishing). A collection about Zambia, [Smoke that Thunders](#) [4], was published by Mariscat Press in 2015.

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[4] <http://www.mariscatpress.com/smokethatthunder.html>