

Lyn Lifshin

Not Thinking It Was So With Yellow Flowers

At night I
dreamed that
same dream,
the one
full of muscles
and thighs
that aren't you.
Later the fear
came back
crossing into
Mexico tho
at first
when I woke up
I thought it
wasn't true
the air was so
bright and
yellow flowers
were falling
from the
pepper tree
like suns

Midwest

all that sky
a flat black
with only a cat's
eyes blazing

people wait alone.
Wind changes in
the cornleaves.
People hear it like

a chord augmented.
Houses chip slowly
stranded in snow.
Only the sky is fast

Eating the Rain Up

gray Tuesday
rain all night
You said do you
 want to go
 for cigarettes
 do you want to

 listen
 I've got a
got a room we
 could
I've got something I want
you
 at least
we could
 talk
 tell me your name

Books fell across the bed
Your mustache
 was the kind, I
 wrapped your mouth
into me
 yes I knew
 your thighs would be
friendly, your
hair closing
down
 small hands a pillow

 and the
 wetness we grasped,
that warm together

 ate the rain up

In Spite of His Dangling Pronoun

He was really her favorite
student, dark and just
back from the army with
hot olive eyes, telling her of
bars and the first
time he got a piece of
ass in Greece or was it
Italy and drunk on some strange
wine and she thought
in spite of his dangling
pronoun (being twenty four and
never screwed but in her
soft nougat thighs) that he
would be a
lovely experience.
So she shaved her legs up high
and when he came
talking of foot notes she
locked him tight in her
snug black file cabinet where
she fed him twice a day and
hardly anyone noticed
how they lived among bluebooks
in the windowless office
rarely coming up for sun or the
change in his pronoun. Or the
rusty creaking chair
or that many years later
they were still going to town in
novels she never had time to finish

Lyn Lifshin has published over 130 books and chapbooks including 3 from Black Sparrow Press: *Cold Comfort*, *Before It's Light* and *Another Woman Who Looks Like Me*. Before *Secretariat: The Red Freak*, *The Miracle*, Lifshin published her prize winning book about the short lived beautiful race horse Ruffian, *The Licorice Daughter: My Year With Ruffian* and *Barbaro: Beyond Brokenness*. Recent books include *Ballroom*, *All the Poets Who Have Touched Me*, *Living and Dead*. *All True*, *Especially The Lies*, *Light At the End: The Jesus Poems*, *Katrina*, *Mirrors*, *Persphone*, *Lost In The Fog*, *Knife Edge & Absinthe: The Tango Poems*. NYQ books published *A Girl Goes into The Woods*. Also just out: *For the Roses* poems after Joni Mitchell and *Hitchcock Hotel* from Danse Macabre. *Secretariat: The Red Freak*, *The Miracle*. And *Tangled as the Alphabet*,-- *The Istanbul Poems* from NightBallet Press Just released as well *Malala*, the dvd of *Lyn Lifshin: Not Made of Glass*. *The Marilyn Poems* was just released from Rubber Boots Press. An update to her Gale Research Autobiography is out: *Lips, Blues, Blue Lace: On The Outside*. Also just out is a dvd of the documentary film about her: *Lyn Lifshin: Not Made Of Glass*. Just out: *Femme Eterna* and *Moving Through Stained Glass: the Maple Poems*. Forthcoming: *Degas Little Dancer*

Her web: www.lynlifshin.com