

## Wilderness House Literary Review 10/4

*Karla Linn Merrifield*

### **On her annual quest to Taos, Jill the Poet's soul**

sopped up Puebloan vibes like so much spilled  
iced lattes, musing how *What is past or passing*  
*is to come*, an idea whose Native American time  
had taught long before Yeats copped it;  
trouble was Jesus the Penitente kept  
scourging himself in her midnight mind's  
eye— So Jilly'd no choice but to smudge  
sage through the cortex's casita consigning  
the extremist's spirit to his afterlife in Hollywood,  
leaving Jill and her pal Pi to obtain the mountain.

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### Ménage à Trois III:

Sonnet as Catalog Addendum

On the far side of the window  
screen, moths samba by lamplight  
in vibrating *cubistic shapes*,  
and a ghost *dances in the fields*  
*by night to imaginary music*.

Emerging from the foreground's  
*reverberating vortex of foliage*,  
lithe swaying of an overgrown  
weeping Japanese cherry tree.

Rana the Leopard Frog of princely  
dimension receives my fairy kiss.  
Induced as I am to experience *dis-*

*locations of scale*, I permit seduction  
by poem, painting, and your rhapsody.

**Poetics in Birdland**

*tanka suite*

**1. Taloned**

Caracara is  
Spanish, is *anaphoric*,  
is roadkill-eater.  
is carrion bird gleaning  
pickings of highway slaughter.

**2. Invisible**

From the sabal palms  
the barred owl— *hoo-HOO-hoo-HOO*—  
hoots his moon music,  
a *polypteton* love song,  
summoning his mate to mate.

**3. Sabored**

Counting the herons,  
the stilt-legged avians:  
little-blue herons,  
great blue and green-backed herons,  
*epistrophic* birds— poisoned.

**4. Screamed**

*Rawk, rawk, rawk, rawk, rawk,*  
scrubland crows raise a raucous.  
Catbirds screech replies.  
*Epizeuxic* sunlight blaes.  
Trees, limp in the heat, eavesdrop.

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### 5. Cloaked

Limpkin *coooooooooos* at dusk,  
dusky, haunting riverside's  
*anadiplosis*—  
secretive bird, shadowed bird,  
bird ancestral, primal, rare.

### 6. Muted

Voiceless, oh, voiceless  
pelican, brown pelican  
swallows flash, swallows  
hooks, sinkers, test-lines; is hooked,  
hushed by *symploce's* cruel hush.