

## Wilderness House Literary Review 11/1

*Michael Harmon*

### **The Envious Ventriloquist**

It would be easy if I felt secure,  
lovingly caressed by an uninhibited chair,  
bubbles of charming music floating around,  
comforting images drifting in  
from the nebulous realm of peripheral vision,  
chocolate-chip cookies baking somewhere.  
Easy if confidence was my possession,  
and assurance guaranteed.  
How much of that is really feasible?  
Confronted by the others,  
I can see the what of what is done,  
but not the how of what it was,  
not the moment of conception and the birth,  
nor the time for growth and struggle to survive,  
its disinclination to let itself be tamed,  
and then the why of what is left,  
someone else's dead thing I give voice to now.