

**Wilderness House Literary Review 11/4**

*William Pendergast*  
**Victoria Europa**

Three times, since you left,  
have the days fallen together —  
No longer is it awkward  
when someone asks  
“What are you doing for Mother’s Day?”

The first time I forgot to think about you  
I was lying in bed at the end of the day,  
suddenly remembering,  
like I left the water running.  
How could I forget?

So many days,  
I couldn’t stop thinking about you.  
At least now,  
when I do something bad,  
I don’t worry what you will think.  
You will never know.

I got to know you best,  
as we waited for you to die.  
You once told me,  
“I was going to be named Victoria Europa  
because of VE day.”

Since that I day,  
I have wondered,  
If you were Victoria rather than Karen?  
Would things have been different?  
Would you have got cancer?  
I’ll never know.