

Wilderness House Literary Review 3/1

Julia Carlson

Hands

She looks down at her hands
Holds them open
Like an altar
And waits for
The sacrifice to begin.

The room is very quiet
She sits and
Does not speak.
She is still
She is thinking

About her shoe that
He threw out the window
Before grabbing her
Throat and hitting her
Head against the sill

She is thinking he
Might be outside
Parked across the
Street and what would
She do then

She raises her head
Turns to look out the
Window and says
I wonder where
He is now

Her skin is
Like snow her
Hands are like fire
Held open over
The flame of the altar

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I reach across space
Take her hands from the altar
Hold them close, say
Don't worry.
I won't let you burn.

Kingdom of Glory

Go early girl and grab your stuff
Run like crazy to that soaring hilltop
The green green haze of late afternoon
It's there waiting for you
Stoop down and rub some dirt in your palms
Smell the earth and all that's in it
Sit back on your knees and close your eyes
The wind loves you, the sun loves you
All the grasses and leaves and swaying blossoms love you
And you are free to worship them back
Without any price to pay
Your mother might be calling you to get on home
But stop awhile here in this meadow
In this warm, green, and solitary kingdom
That in this moment belongs to only you
You never know if you will see it again
And some will never see it at all.

The Diva

She pouts like a child
Pulling names sex smells
Fashion magazine reviews
Stiletto boots and rubber tulips
>From under her skirt

She reads nothing new
And imitates ornate scripts
Rents a half-bent dancing tree
Makes the deepest cut of all and moves on
A ship opening from hand to hand

She is a virgin weird Madonna
No Mother of God
With her varied natures pulsing
A wizard gleam in the dark
On her trapeze in the alley

She turns her body over
To the flying team at night
She is known to everyone as
Trouble no talent out of music
Or on hold

She is purple plush medieval
Her message a first take as she
Cons the maddening crowd
With her dog on a diamond leash
She thinks she has it all.