

## Wilderness House Literary Review 5/4

*Judy Shepps Battle*

### DEATH REACHES GREEDY

i

Death reaches greedy your life force to slay  
Anticipates devour of innocent prey  
Savors blood salty taste  
Forgoes manners or haste

Death lurks behind ancient billboard  
Eager to chase love's lavender Ford  
Targets sanity for torturous destruction  
Pieces that defy laws of construction.

Death coils at brazen love force  
Hisses violently a competing course  
Rages at having focus distracted.  
Curses the wait so protracted.

ii

"Killer Death you cannot have her!" I roar  
As I guard the woman I adore

"No! You may not have her life un-whole  
No! You may not have her sensuous soul"

"If you want her, fight" Death booms  
"If you want her, make me leave this room!"

iii

I gather strength from universe vast  
Amazon energy flows eager, hard, and fast  
My eyes focus with steel intent  
My mission is simple, I will not relent

Our eyes lock in one fearless moment  
Assessing each other's will and torment  
Respect is fierce, we stand firm ground  
Wordless stare bereft of sound.

Our beings flash signs of ancient recognition  
For Death and Me this is our noble tradition.  
Slowly Death smiles wordless assent  
"Let her choose, this time I relent."



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iv

Softly I speak words from deepest heart  
Knowing I can only play a small human part  
"Choose well, my love, for only you have the power  
to decide who shall hold your hand in this final hour"

Silent, you beg me to not to request  
This choice as our relationship test  
Hypnotic alliance shifts towards Death  
Your eyes disappear with each breath

Death throws a salute as he takes your arm  
I put my sword down feeling inside calm  
Knowing surrender my soul's only tact  
I walk away without a glance back.

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### SUNRISE

Daylight caresses soft night as  
half-asleep she reaches for her lover  
Orioles gawk outside bowed window

Eyes sealed, desire awakens  
love's instinct locates receptive sites  
female energies tremble and mingle

Insistent bodies steer to climax  
a duet of moans serenade the ether  
mind dismisses modesty as irrelevant

"I only have 13 minutes," you whisper  
deaf to time, I disappear within you  
and exhausted we fall homeward

I never heard you leave that morning  
or saw you on the day you chose to  
leave life forever

Sunrise has never been the same.