

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/1

Jennifer Lagier
December Assault

Last night the body count escalated,
another banger gunned down
just outside our campus garage.

Stunned college students report nine shots,
a man on the ground bleeding
while two gang members run.

I monitor the emergency radio,
run from classroom to classroom;
maintenance men lock all exterior doors.

TV crews and police arrive
with sirens and cameras. Yellow tape and
red smears deface the dark lawn.

My phone rings constantly,
frantic parents, terrified faculty,
newsmen demanding eye witness reports.

Tonight I worry about inevitable revenge,
cautiously unlock my car and drive away,
shiver all the way home.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/1

Going Steady With Bluebeard: Watch for the Signs

It's usually a good indication
there is no future
when the guy proposes marriage
on your first date.

And if that doesn't encourage you
to bail out immediately,
the numerous photos of his many absent exes
should bring second thoughts.

He's attractive , eager for companionship
You are trusting, a good girl without much experience.
However, wrist restraints and involuntary anal sex
are tips that it's time to escape.

You'll be mine forever, he says.
You're the woman of my dreams.
Run! your inner voice urges.
Now you see the big knife.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/1

Guinevere

She never intended to divide the brotherhood,
make Arthur forfeit his crown or fracture the kingdom.

She was ignored and bored.

Temptation slinked quietly into her bedroom,
promised a strings-free, temporary diversion.

Use it or lose it, she rationalized, depressed
at growing obsolete, grayer and drier.

She craved a man's hand between her legs,
his mouth on places that made every part of her tingle.

Wanted a white knight to remind her she was alive,
to be wooed, held and taken,

both of them quivering,
coming in moonlight.

This was to be their private affair,
a secret, passionate oasis just before life
became a stale final count-down.

She had no desire to injure or replace,
was stunned by the repercussions
their furtive resurrection incurred.