

## Wilderness House Literary Review 8/2

*Denise Mostacci Sklar*

### WINTER SUITE

#### 1. Departure

Jazz music thick  
and floating from radio  
with black cloud ahead  
in sky driving to  
Logan airport-Terminal B  
Boston to Miami  
plane reeves on  
runway shaking, passengers  
brace for lift off  
my mind tightens  
searches until  
I settle  
into the muffled  
sound of women talking  
their laughter  
free and easy

#### 2. Ocean View

condos rise  
ominous high  
bully  
the  
strip of sand -  
green tides that  
wash uneven to shore  
deliver a coconut  
cabana boys  
thick towels, waitresses  
bring lunch, photos  
snap

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### 3. Miami Beach

The music is pumping  
behind me at the pool  
of some hotel, only one  
of hundreds that line the beach  
on Collins Ave in Miami-crowded,  
buildings of white concrete, chrome  
and glass  
royal blue flatness  
of curtains hang  
behind windows  
mimic sky

as the sound  
of helicopter travels  
back and forth against clouds that  
do not move  
and children  
weave the shoreline with buckets  
swinging, filled  
with water  
to be poured into holes  
and neat piles of sand

and blue grey gulls stand  
gathered and still, while the pack  
of girl teens, thin in pink and black  
lounges on towels with lotion, bikinis-  
hair long to their waist, confident, wispy  
blowing in breeze.

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### 4. Distance

This is not like  
New England, the stormy  
mystery, rocky  
ruggedness of  
east coast waters, icy  
biting.

Three feet  
of snow  
up north  
and I sit  
on beach  
the sun  
comes in  
and out.

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### **One Day of Theater** *(high school Drama Festival)*

They enter doors  
unload sets  
costumes  
eight schools  
early morning  
the day unfolds,  
tired buzzing, backpacks  
emptied on floor in classrooms  
assorted cosmetic bags  
scattered feminine  
and lively, her red hair  
orange jumps- barbie doll  
dramatic, warm ups  
and nerves. Two young men walk  
talking, arms swinging with swift strides  
breaking into boy race down long  
sunny corridor, slim in James Bond  
suits that ripple, bow ties quirky  
free

logos, bright color  
tee shirts, techies in black,  
tables and props, coat racks,  
a chair, lights, sound check  
timers, judges and snacks.  
Young actors chatter  
fill rooms, walk halls,  
meet connect and meet  
again current flows...a world.

They compete  
cheer each other on

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with music electric  
rhythm, their bodies their  
youth undulating waves,  
soles  
of feet skim the  
isles pace the stage, Dark  
to Lights--Vietnam, robots, future,  
fairy tales, wigs, a mother, a wife  
love scenes romantic that captivate  
and mock- truth spills out  
line to line  
laughs hearts  
pounding, then stage  
is cleared-- empty,  
leaving wooden  
floor lit, small  
pool of light.

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### SIGNS

The VITAMIN SHOPPE  
ART SUPPLIES (artists and  
craftsman-  
\$4 off speed ball  
screen and block  
printing)  
PEARL VISION. Across  
the highway JENNY CRAIG  
SUPER CUTS next to  
MATTRESS GIANT glowing  
large in letters ringing  
red  
on Route 1  
black pole orange  
lolly pop square  
sticking up in  
parking lot reads  
HOME DEPOT.

Down the road 3D  
enormous cactus  
green shoots  
up in sky  
with letters  
HILLTOP STEAK  
HOUSE  
where thick steaks  
large, juicy hang  
off plate.