

## Wilderness House Literary Review 9/1

*Jennifer Lagier*  
**Succubus Soulmates**

We exchange unhappiness,  
piss and moan  
complain about partners.

Do nothing  
to extricate ourselves  
from bad/sad situations.

Make excuses to avoid  
rocking the boat:

Finances. Fear.

Family obligations.

Change requires risk,  
mustering courage.

We cling to the familiar

limp along, tolerate

sharp stones

we could remove

from shoes

to ease pain

but don't.

Embrace accustomed roles

as martyr and cripple.

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### Tarnished Grail

Guinevere wonders  
if all marriages  
start in passion,  
grow anemic over time,  
end up going stale.  
She and Arthur find  
less and less to discuss,  
sleep apart, go their  
separate ways, have  
no common dreams.  
When she needs him,  
he is carousing with the boys,  
crusading for another lost cause,  
leaves her rattling around,  
untouched, in his  
drafty stone house.  
The day Lancelot  
slithers onto the scene,  
all French flash with  
his courtly attentions,  
is it any surprise  
he catches her eye,  
sweet forbidden fruit,  
the seductive snake,  
an untended garden?

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### Insanity

With every marriage,  
she thought  
this was the time  
things would be different.

At nineteen, she married  
her first serious boyfriend  
from a combination  
of guilt, love and passion.

For the second, she went  
with head instead of heart,  
found a man whose resume  
matched her goals and interests.

Both experiences--total disasters:  
too controlling, too crazy,  
too many problems,  
too much old baggage.

Husband number three  
was too young to be broken.  
He brought immaturity,  
alcoholism, addiction, a temper.

These days, she lives alone,  
raises cats and geraniums,  
her home, a husband-free zone,  
takes the occasional lover.