

Break

A tickertape of spent purple blossoms
carpets streets, lawns, unmoved cars,

the cantare's hat. Once the shedding starts
it's a few weeks of constant collapse.

The luminescent Jacaranda fades
like deflated prayers into summer's hot gossip.

Leaf, lacy green, swishes a shawl teased
over skeletal branches. I'm trying so hard

to change -- another season without you.
Without you I've stopped cigarettes,

incrementally, Jesus, your fortitude
and plain pigheaded grace. Your breath

so short your thoughts collapse.
I sing you with night and fire.

Guitares pick a swelling pulse.
When will the castanets of my heart click?



Jenifer Tener

Raised in Virginia breaking and training horses, Jenifer E. Tener had a diverse college career while being a regional actress. Jenifer graduated from USC. She then worked on ELECTRUM magazine's staff and board for four years. At the beginning of the AIDS crisis she helped start PAWS/LA (Pets Are Wonderful Support/LA). While at USC she received Honorable Mention from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Charles Harper Webb won the award that year). She was recently short-listed for her chapbook, *Desperados*, by the Santa Fe Writers Project.