



a gargoyle on tuesday

An iced latte sweats in front of me as I read Virginia Woolf's "A Haunted House." The ghostly couple drift from room to room and reminisce of bygone days as the first three cervical bones in my neck are gently tugged down. The staccato bass in Madness's "Our House" beats a concave echo into my cerebellum as the next four vertebrae are bent into submission. My left eye shields the tingling after-burn from the Morton Girl's bright yellow comet tail branded on an industrial size bag of salt propped against a tower of supplies that were left unattended by baristas busy with caffeine addicts. The constant ebb and flow of customers to my right brush against my retreating elbow as I futilely attempt to write a poem in my journal where the 'e's are transformed into "c's," "s's," and "&s."

My head rests on my chest at a thirty-five-degree angle where I am forced to intercept side long glances from a fashionable silver haired wraith who punctuates this invasion of my privacy with hastily written notes in the margin of the next great action film screenplay and a series of calls to his agent on a Razor phone. At 9:00 p.m. EDT a hip young denim-clad mother suckles her baby under a sky-blue micro *fiber blanket*. My vision is filled with Woolf's trees, which have *spun darkness for a wandering beam of sun*. I am now a pair of hunched shoulders, stone thumbs desperate to tack down fluttering pages, bulging eyes, and un-slung jaw with a mouth forced open wide for a flood of words that will never come.

Marie Lecrivain

Marie Lecrivain is the executive editor and publisher of *poeticdiversity: the litzine of Los Angeles*. She playfully, though metaphorically moonlights as an 8th-level whip wielder in Dante's *Inferno*, and is a writer in residence at her apartment. Her prose and poetry has/will appear in a number of literary journals, including: *Animus*, *The Homestead Review*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *The Other Voices International Project*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Re)verb*, and *Triplopia*. Her work has also appeared in the anthologies *Literary Angles: the second year of poeticdiversity* (Sybaritic Press 2005), and *Silent Voices Vol. II* (Ex Machina Press 2006). Marie is a contributing writer for *Subtle Tea*, a former poetix editor for *get underground*, and her debut collection of short stories, *Nihilistic Foibles*, was released in Summer 2006 by Sybaritic Press. ! Her short story, "The Word Thief" was nominated for a 2007 Pushcart Prize. Marie's avocations include photography; marmosets; Christopher Eccleston, or Sean Bean (depending on what day of the week it is); her cat Beeb; expensive handbags (she is currently saving for a "real" Hermes wallet); and sensual tributes upon her neck from male artists-except male poets, who only write about it.

