

This might be my remedy
this amber signature of tea
set here before us in cups
of glass too hot to touch.
The steam is aromatic
in my head – petals float
upwards out of reach.
The simmer of my body
hums within
so that I tremble
like an aftershock
of the Sierra Madre,
and rattle silver teaspoons
into saucers – I sit
clenching sugar cubes
in my back teeth
like Esther, or Kobra,
or Zahra might have
years before, or yesterday.
The tonic eases its way
into your explanation
infused with details
of the truth. I listen,
waiting for the tea to cool.

Tea Remedy

Mary Torregrossa

Mary Torregrossa is a member of the Emerging Urban Poets, helping to facilitate writing workshops and critiques in Pasadena. In 2009, Mary was selected as a "Newer Poet of LA" as part of the LA Poetry Festival. She has read her work on Pacifica Radio Station, KPFK and was profiled in the LA Times in 2001. Her poems have appeared in several regional poetry anthologies, and on-line in R I Roads Travel Magazine and Poeticdiversity. Mary has two chapbooks, most recently, "Shoebbox Poems," compiled for a fundraising event to benefit the Pasadena Foster Care center, Hillside. She was born in Providence, works as an ESL teacher, and lives in Baldwin Park, California with her husband and two daughters.

