

As in, beginnings

The small girl knows the staircase leads. A bed of lilies sleeping pink and yellow in their green pads doesn't alert her to the wall-blur, the set of amber stairs up then around, as where he and she followed long Oudaïa cliffs to higher out at sea views silent by glass-shards at the turret door. She couldn't open over the blue. Rope knotted, gnarled, gripping something like her chin. She kicks the rip in the wall, day less certain than the harbor. Her wide eyes in the shadow of the 4 x 4, the box of billiard balls at her side rolling. The sound is a splotch of plaster behind her orange tunic as she watches the sealed in, the sealing that counts, the tea-stained white-wash where up round he leads closer into the have-come-dry mid-afternoon like arid suns over Rabat in the trails down undering. The shutters chipped leaving paper, papering his thumb up near where she, poised, leads, is led, following here, it's the blur of, like foliage marking a stain where rubbed, she, up turning down into, knows the set of tides of wavelets letting out by the palms, the ferns, the tabled café overlooking the sealine leaning. Then farther, is, as in, beginnings, as in turning towards or backwards, stumbling intos or on and on and on upwards.



Originally from Iowa City, Jennifer K. Dick, author of *Fluorescence* (U of GA Press, 2004 winner of the Contemporary Poetry Series), holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College, an MFA from Colorado State and a DEA from Paris III: la Sorbonne Nouvelle where she is a doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature. New work appears in *Aufgabe*, *Diner*, *The Canary*, *The Colorado Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, and *Tears in the Fence* (UK). She also had poems included in the anthologies *Short Fuse* edited by Philip Norton and Todd Swift (Ratapallax Press, 2002), *100 Poets Against War*, edited by Todd Swift (Salt Press, 2003) and the forthcoming anthology, *In the Criminal's Cabinet* (Oct 2004) edited by Val Stevenson. Previous editor of *Upstairs at Duroc*, Jennifer K Dick lives in Paris where she organizes readings, mailings of reading events and works at the Université de Marne la Vallée and Oxbridge Summer Programs abroad. She will be reading in the USA in fall 2004.

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