

The Ghost in My Room
Eric Patrick Carroll

Cover me in color.
 My only hue is you
 in this black white-life.
It was no dream
 I lay brood and waking
 shaking with this death composite.
I feel your pressure
 in beads of sweat, dead
 sliding down my forehead
and there you must stay
 while you're away.
 My hand on my bulge
 You, whispering through my window,
me sitting, laying to rest.

My knuckles reveal
 the past presence of drywall
 of splattered paint.
Crows feet accepting
 of shy, averted eyes –
 fingers slowing
 crippled by page numbers –
 bleeding gums which see no blood
and your name is temporarily replaced
by a sizzled and dusty computer screen.

Restless, itching to move
naked butt cheeks on the leather seat
tricking my revolving mind
continuously spinning in circles.

I desire not to be
 amidst the endless flying words
 thrown values, spinning darts
and fitting you into it
I can't define my love in actions.

Theses genius beards
 and their trifocals
 flap their lips – automatically.
I told them to define love,
and I became a child.
The glowing adolescence

shining of Burberry and stilettos,
When I ask them of love I receive pocket books and wedding rings.
I see a father
Sitting in the snow with one ski and
a son sitting next to his one-legged father
asking to be lead through the trees
and I need not ask the question.

Your white teeth shine pure pearl
and strike me from my podium
during your rare smiles.
Will they save me from the never ending verse of
Shakespeare's wit and rearranged words?
Underneath my drawing cough I feel
in his dedicated love
as distasteful as it is to me,
you, my gothic angel of sadness.

The same faces, room numbers
accents pages, books and desks
gather you up in their overuse.
I fight and forge
through this cinder-block odyssey
to bring me back to my bow
with strings too taught and tightly wound
too much for these dying digits to bear.
So cut it is,
tied around my finger,
to keep your whispers
from slipping through the screen
and you
from sneaking from this dream.