

Big Lucks #4

A Literary Experience



The Difference Between Gilt and Gild

Dawn Coutu

When you opened your mouth: a canyon, a crevasse,
a well-paid biographer with illegible handwriting .

Your musk soaked in creosote,
a caustic escalation to truth, why

you won't absentee white noise or answer
crosswords of crucial questions; an interview

complete when we share breaths and inhale.
Our resolution left slouching in a chair with blinders.

Canyoned antipathy: you are denial
and I separation, sifted ingredients. You fumble

through fissures your speech ink spills, blots
back roads of our consummate muse. You knew

I was gold, yet chipped my facade to be sure.
An example of the difference between a rabid raccoon

and frothing at the mouth. Between your thighs of violent stupor,
I am the biography ruminating your pungent resurrection.

We remain: preserved cave paintings, undiscovered,
out of need. How else to spell caustic compound.

Dawn Coutu is a wordsmith. She received her bachelor's degree in Creative Writing from Chester College of New England and is pursuing an MFA in Poetry at New England College. Over the last eleven months, she interviewed professors for NEC's magazine about a variety of subjects, including biology, foster care, and physical abuse. Through these conversations, she learned that inflection tells a story of its own. Her feature articles and poems have appeared in *Today*, *Ad Hoc Monadnock*, *SO Good*, *Compass Rose*, *The Henniker Review*, and *The Tower Journal*.

Elisa Gabbert is the poetry editor of *Absent* and the author of *The French Exit* (Birds, LLC) and *Thanks for Sending the Engine* (Kitchen Press). Her poems have appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Laurel Review*, *Pleiades* and *Sentence*, among other journals, and her nonfiction has appeared in *Mantis*, *Open Letters Monthly*, and *The Monkey & The Wrench: Essays into Contemporary Poetics*. She currently lives in Boston and blogs at The French Exit (www.thefrenchexit.blogspot.com).

Ricky Garni is a graphic designer living in Carrboro, North Carolina. His work can be found in *Evergreen Review*, *Camel Saloon*, *Used Furniture Review*, *Orion Headless* and other places. His latest work, *January*, is a sequel to his earlier work, *December*. Although it could be the other way around, with a lot of space in between.

Andrew Beck Grace makes films, takes pictures, and occasionally writes stuff down at his home in Alabama. In the past he wrote nonfiction pieces for the now defunct alt-country magazine *No Depression* and produced stories for NPR News. He's mostly driven by the insatiable pursuit of telling true stories creatively. His current film, "Eating Alabama," is about the South, sustainability, and community and is slated to air nationally on PBS in 2012. He teaches filmmaking at the University of Alabama and often hollers "Roll Tide" at friends and strangers alike..

Joe Hall is the author of *Pigafetta Is My Wife* (Black Ocean Press 2010) and *The Devotional Poems* (forthcoming). His poetry and fiction have appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *HTMLGiant*, *Barrelhouse*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Zone 3* and elsewhere. With Wade Fletcher he co-organizes the DC area reading series Cheryl's Gone. He no longer lives in a trailer park.