

The Bridge 2009 – *Honorable Mention*

Juley Harvey - Estes Park, CO

dinner at 8

the blue-bandanaed,
gypsy-skirted woman
stole into the bushes,
just off the freeway,
where she would sleep
for the night.
hotel california, hotel new orleans,
hotel america.
the hilton does motel six.
simple sorrows blend
into simple freedom -
the topsy-turviness
of simply being alive.
had she been a bank president
in some other life,
or a hairdresser/waitress
back in the day?
and now she is robin hood,
made carrion in the forest,
stealing moments of rest
from the rushing, headlighted commuters,
whose lives she comprehends
no more than they hers -
what does a homing bmw know
about terminal homelessness,
dinner-at-eight, for 12,
about plain, animal hunger?
light years and a galaxy away,
barbara bush says in houston,
about the refugees swept up like refuse
from hurricane katrina and deposited
on teeming cement shores,
"so many of these people in the arena here,
you know, were underprivileged anyway,
so this is working very well for them."
disaster works. can i get an amen?