

M/Other

(Dedicated to my husband and children)

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The clink-clanging of
knives and forks
against a susurrus
of sobs escaping
the steel faucet
in the ritual cleansing
which follows
each meal

Me in this twilight hour
sipping red in cobalt
blue against the greens
light, dark, darker
edging the terrace
where I sit while
he washes the stains
away

Mindful of kitchen
sounds slowly seeping
into the woods from
whence appear a family
of deer I sometimes
see from the
square window

And point out
to the delight
even now
of grown children
and their father
familiar with the

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madness of mothering
the other.

(Ossining, New York, 11 July 2008)

Worldly Woman

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I

a woman
walking near
the jet d'eau
very fast
in her abaya

perhaps she fears
the wind
might blow off
what gives her
a measure of
cover

a woman
spread eaged
a string of blood
between her thighs
red clam shells
on her breasts
she belongs

on her boat
with the red and
white trim
and the flag of the
white cross
sticking out like a
sword
from the prow

she seems so carefree
in the middle
of her perfect Lac Leman
the wind picks up
just a bit
coming off

a dark chateau
now owned by
Sir Sadruddin Khan

II

And the sun still
cheerfully bright
caresses those legs
skinned to the white
before the red
begins to burn
I jump into the
fountain's spray at
the jardin'd'anglais
searching for a moment

in my dolce vita

a woman
on the bench
wearing a green shalwar
and white kameez
locks her legs up
looking away
at some point
I wish I could still
see in a movie
from yesterday

(Lavigny, Switzerland, 16 July 2005)