

Thanksgiving, 2013

by Michelle Parks

Black on black attire
At Thanksgiving
Pullin' up in a black car
In the middle of
the damn day
Jewels upon your
lady's finger
Bright, sparkling
Her brother follows
her like a lapdog
In an abyss of adolescent memory
Blood laced
with alcohol
Emotionless male in silent obligation
Your white dog bounds
happily, ears erect
To offer me greeting
with affection
Full of turkey, stuffing,
Rolls, and red wine,
Covered my head
With some female's
Black sweater
Still wearing my
Easter egg raincoat
And passed out
Just to be
Near you for an hour

Dream in a puddle

by Avendor

Let this frozen puddle
become a majestic waterfall
and let these four silent walls
break into songs for us all
And let this creep of a person
become an inferno of light
whirling red, blue, and green
before the city tonight
And let this pen be pulled
from beneath the skyscrapers
that this poem might be scrawled
over streets of petrified paper
And let this lonely coward of a man
have at least one more chance
to win the heart of a Mary
and together take a stance
That all ages to come
may stop and admire
how a boy and a girl
became a pillar of fire
And lived a life of personal redemption
and earthly concern
on a planet full of hidden treasure
and secrets to burn
And let these wasted hours
be remembered no more
and let every New year
be passionately fought for
And let this generation
when it comes to an end
be the greatest one ever
and ever, Amen.

Winter in Death Valley

by Kareem Ali

Winter in Death Valley
Is without heat
The street people collect their cans
Beneath a tsunami of snow
They whisper spare change
From the well worn walks
And push their carts
Into the wasted trees.
In winter
They pack their prayers
In grape leaves
As they travel
They pack nothing
Because nothing is
What they have become
Death Valley is where the dolphins go...
Death Valley is where the words go...
Death Valley is where the dreams go...
To die.



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