DIANE DRIEDGER

I Have a Dream

I’m flying
loose from my barbell body
I now understand
why people had to invent airplanes
why I want to fly

instead I walk
with plodding gait
pacing my energy
teaspoonfuls at a time

my mind is a lightning flash
away from the body
how will the two work together?
I will find my way
and this leap
will be flying

Diane Driedger’s poetry appears earlier in this volume.

LINDA MARTIN

Wild Plunge

I accepted the harness, someone to control the
rope,
I used the goggles, wore the helmet, had the
parachute on my back
but it wouldn’t open and every return to earth
was hard,
the way the soil came at me, came at my children
spraying us in the face, and making us spit.
There is still a longing for the wild plunge
riding the air, losing and catching my breath
mouth open wide to suck it all in.

I locked and unlocked the bracelets
click, click, click, one link to another,
applied the grease but the rust formed,
some things never left my throat
then the steely voice spoke.
I know that demon lover
throwing me, each time, over the edge
arms up, hands wide, fingers grasping.

Shuffling, the unsteady gait, small steps inside
the shackles
a hobbling run at tulips, spruce, boulders, river
banks
kicking over the traces, but circumscribed
only a toe’s width, a nail’s worth, a tip
I’ve jumped the rope, leapt from the branch,
flown from the swing
been chased, been hidden and found
that was when I wanted to be caught.

MADELINE SONIK

Reduction

Girls are the most difficult sex
all the adults agreed
especially when they flirt with boys,
grow breasts, and start to bleed.

Madeline Sonik is an eclectic award-winning author
and anthologist. Her published book-length works
include a novel, Arms, a collection of short fiction,
Drying the Bones, a children’s novel, Belinda
and the Dustbunnys, two poetry collection, Stone
Sightings and The Book of Changes and a volume
of personal essays, Afflictions & Departures, which
was recently nominated for the BC National Award for
Canadian Non-fiction, was a finalist for The Charles
Taylor prize for literary non-fiction, and winner of the
2012 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize.

Linda Martin’s poetry appears earlier in this volume.