

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Stellasue Lee: "Purity"

Stellasue Lee · Thursday, May 3rd, 2012

Dr. Stellasue Lee received her Ph.D. from Honolulu University. Now editor emeritus at *Rattle*, a literary journal, she serves presently on the editorial board at Curbstone Press. You may find "Purity" in her book, *Crossing The Double Yellow Line*, © 2000, Bombshelter Press.

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## Purity

I am fifty-seven  
and have not been loved until now.  
The man's heart that loves me  
through the wars and beatings of his dreams,  
through the nightly vision of his wife  
aiming an old rusted gun at her temple,  
then pulling the trigger,  
smiles upon waking.  
We read poetry at 5 A.M.  
He touches me in such a way  
that every woman he's been with  
I find my self indebted to.  
My heart has become wide open.  
My days had been used in such a way  
that tomorrow held no future.  
I am not supposed to be a bride  
or a smokey tongued vamp;  
proud of my nakedness and no regrets.  
I am the mortal eyes  
of a small winged firefly  
aglow in the body of time.  
I am the famished woman  
near the center of a fine collapse  
breaking myself into small defeats.  
Vulnerability is my mark in reality.  
My heart has become wide open.  
Sometimes the world seems so large,  
I want to touch him while I can.

Here, on this rim leading into the sea,  
I've learned to understand nothing.  
I've come to believe in nothing,  
but the purple night and his arms  
holding me in sleep.  
He knows the painful loudness of a tethered mind,  
yet provides the beauty that can only come  
from an ugly past.  
That's why I want to say something astonishing  
like—my heart has become wide open.

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