

flourish.
To spread.

Each heartbeat is a tick on the clock.
It is only a matter of time before she
winds down,
This girl trapped inside and destined
to die right along with
The old woman's skin she has be-
come.

Disenchanted
by Mary Lewys



The Body's Voice
By Donna Taylor Burgess

A girl disguised in an old lady's skin
Muscles stiff and slow of gait.
Awkward.

At night when she dozes--
She never really falls into a good
sleep anymore--
She remembers dancing.

Twirling, shuffling,
Giggling up into the face
Of a handsome and unlined beau.

Her body is betraying her.
Inside/ outside.
It allows illness in to grow and to

Don't Look
By Lee Barnett

Parts of my body hurt with a familiar
soreness.
That was the first thing I realised as
sleep slowly left me, and I exited that
familiar state, those few elongated mo-
ments before you wake when anything
seems possible... including rolling over
and rejoining the realm of Morpheus.
But the pounding in my temples
meant that option was looking less likely
with each second that passed.
And then I heard breathing.
It wasn't mine, since it had stopped
the instant I'd heard the sound, and si-
multaneously detected the warmth of
another body laying next to mine.
My eyes sneaked open, but all I

could see was the glowing red numbers
of the alarm clock. That and a shaft of
sunlight spearing through the narrow
gap in the floral curtains, the pattern
hurting my eyes, though that wasn't un-
usual.

Trying not to make a sound, I slowly
turned over, smiling slightly as the mat-
tress rewarded my stealth, then wincing
as a stubborn bedspring creaked.

I sighed as a black lace bra came
into view.

And then gulped as I saw what was
lying next to it.

That explained the hangover... but
not the bra.

And all I could think was "not
again."

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Storefront
by Christopher Woods



Distance
by Andrew Rihn

She walks
like a catalogue in high heels,
her stilettos
castanets on the tile floor.
The scent
of citrus fills my nose
as she leaves the room.
I am hungry;
my lips are drying,
thick as the skin of an orange.