

**Nicole Mauro**

**3 poems from 'Prey'**

**Buzzard**

I.

A tongue—the buzzard above

*without sky there is no reference to  
the montrously sized*

reference—to be for example  
exampleless

I—fragility

“That possibility is”

*The sound of my head unpillowing*

II.

A human slept—“of no consequence or reference”

the buzzard above—in sympathy of prey

*I was montrously sized*

wept—there is no concrete example

*for that bird's offspring, in nest*

“That possibility is”—that possibility is  
not even death

III.

Montrously sized—fragility

*consequentially referenced*

A tongue moves a thought  
away from a head

My prey have all been sympathized—the buzzard above

*wept*

feathers of the pillow I lie on—her offspring in nest

## **Crane**

I.

Indiscriminate tenderness—*violent is the quest  
for ground by the grasses*

On a Eurasian plant—several hundred  
arbitrary thoraxes

*Praying mantises*—(I miniaturized)

*fucked*—became

“As though condition  
was the only distinction between fiction and rage”

a cold screw I dropped into  
the snowmelt

the nostrils (of origami  
the eyes cranes)

“If only I had said” – I have no holes,  
like its eggs

II.

Into the rain—I

Bird (O lushness, O sage)

*Raping flowers, in the name of subjective  
sexual discourse*

Several hundred retinas were interrupted from enjoying their newspapers—*simply because they are flowers*

“Everyone succumbs occasionally”—Farmhands

Over the Earth’s  
soft ground

(insert finger into flap A)—into the acres

sprout

III.

Succumbed—I

A soft Earth

*Despite the freeze of polarity* – the distinguishing characteristic  
of those in the possession of controlling  
influence

Geomorphed clitorises out of  
Antarctic Floridas—*eggs from mossy crotches of humus and disintegrated rock*

“Why a man could split himself in a mound  
of dirt”

Everyone occasionally—Over

-flowered (One smelt the Rape)

In the hay. In the alfalfa.

## **Falcon**

I.

Bob gave the doll to Sue—two children, under sheets

*a bouquet of genitalia*

Sue gave the doll to Bob—alive  
in the bladelike heat

A man, out the window

“Reflecting a discrepant likeness”—by olfactory means

Felt sap firm the middles  
of trees

(naturally  
this wasn't  
the ordinary gravity)

(a man, out the  
window, two  
children under sheets)

*He perceived Eucalyptus*

like a newborn unable to  
grabbing onto its leaves

II.

Green mountains—Bob and Sue

The alcohol—the alcohol

*of yellow loss exudes*

*temporality begs reflection—anytime*

the precision of sunlight (replicas of people)  
is absolute

Every window—“that explains everything”

*The same difficulties*

“who gave the doll to whom”—discrepancy

III.

Temporal sunlight—begging

anytime a child (a doll found akimbo)  
anytime whom is a child assumed)

The same difficulties—Bob and Sue

Under sheets–In green mountains

*Heat is the precision of sunlight  
and how it exudes*

like a falcon–like a falcon

(a man, out the window)

(the shadow of a sapling)

Inside the room

**Nicole Mauro** was born in San Mateo, California, in 1970. Her work has appeared in *Skanky Possum*, *Big Bridge*, *Jacket*, and numerous other journals. She is author of the chapbook *Odes* (Sardines Press, 2003). She teaches writing at the University of San Francisco, and lives in the Bay Area with her husband and daughter.