



Like a Beggar

Ellen Bass

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Ellen Bass's poems might best be described as transcendental incidentalism. In *Like a Beggar*, her prose moseys along, skillfully detailing tightly framed shots, one right after another, and then "a boy on a bicycle rides by." Hopalong happenstance.

She writes of Jewish habits, atheism, Lucretius, her son and daughter and ex-husband, and rolling naked down dunes in Death Valley with a same-sex lover: "the perfect cones of her breasts, dusted with grains of sand."

Bass is sexy maternalism (is that redundant?), exposing herself with a nod to a natural sense of modesty. A Pushcart Prize and Pablo Neruda Prize winner, as well as the author of five acclaimed collections of poetry, she is fun to be around.

MATT SUTHERLAND (Fall 2014)

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