

Emily Ferrara is the 2006 winner of the Bordighera Poetry Prize. Her full-length collection, *The Alchemy of Grief (Alchimia del Dolore)*, will be published in bilingual edition by Bordighera Press in November 2007, with the Italian translation by Sabine Pascarelli. Emily is Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Mother's Lament

Your feet tagged,
tinged blue, hang
over the gurney's edge.
Head thrust back,
mouth slack,
hands folded cold
turning colder.
I reach for life
in your muscled body,
carefully sheathed.
Your cropped hair still
grows warm. I murmur,
touch your head, place
my mouth to your cheek.
Wrench free the taut sheet.
See your penis at rest:
crimson, pure, your blood rushed
all your lean pubescence to ripen there.
I want to cast out the affront
of the yellow catheter
still inserted in you.
All I want is your flesh,
slick and warm as the day
you were born.

First published in VIA (Voices in Italian Americana)

Bad News in the ER

The serious young doctor
started the story
at the beginning.

"Your son was at a concert
when he collapsed."

Can I see him?

"An ambulance was called.
EMTs started CPR."

Where is he?

"They tried to revive him,
but got no response."

Please...

"They brought him here.
We worked a long time."

Oh God.

"We didn't want to give up.
He was so young."

I searched the doctor for sorrow
found a stoic earnestness.
He ended with an apology.

"I'm so sorry," he said,
as if he'd hurt my feelings,
as if I could forgive him.

First published in Family Medicine

Emily Ferrara is the 2006 winner of the Bordighera Poetry Prize. Her full-length collection, *The Alchemy of Grief (Alchimia del Dolore)*, will be published in bilingual edition by Bordighera Press in November 2007, with the Italian translation by Sabine Pascarelli. Emily is Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Afterbirth

Let me not
make a talisman
of your eyelashes
nor your ashes
nor bones delivered
from the fire.
Slow, deep, my
muscles sighing
in the progression
of algebra, my os
briny as sealskin,
my waters breaking
below the blossom
of your head.
Let me place you
in the seedbed
of my body.

First published in VIA (Voices in Italian Americana)

Emily Ferrara is the 2006 winner of the Bordighera Poetry Prize. Her full-length collection, *The Alchemy of Grief (Alchimia del Dolore)*, will be published in bilingual edition by Bordighera Press in November 2007, with the Italian translation by Sabine Pascarelli. Emily is Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at University of Massachusetts Medical School.