

HE SAID HE WAS PATIENT THAT HE WANTED TO

but he'd wait he
wanted to hold
me but not too
tight put his
tongue on certain
nightmares lips
sealing like
marine catfish
males who carry
fertilized eggs
in their mouths
for 2 months go
without food
until well after
the babies hatch
as the young
learn to live
and swim in this
odd nest

MRS MOKAS

with her house
stuffed with branches
branches burning
all night burning
from october
she'd pick them up
in the yard there
was no heat
no toilet no
she said i don't
want no tv no relatives
to phone and made a
hole in the shed
for the cats to be
warm in fed the
deer sent her old man
packing some years
before kept 4
stoves it
was almost 90

MLA MADONNA

in her black velvet
instead of a suit
in her musk and
mink oil see thru
blouse that you can
see clear back
to SUNY see the
5/6th done PhD
the missing Wyatt
paper she's
vulnerable
she's dangerous
she'll draw you to
her like her long
legs did the
Wallace Stevens man
but this time
you flunk

WORMWOOD MADONNA

heats up your blood
makes you high
her skin is milky
the color of the
sick cat's eye
anise eyes
tastes men the 4th
taste becomes
a feeling you
see what
isn't there
she makes you crazy

-- Lyn Lifshin

Niskayuna NY