BUT, SERIOUSLY, FOLKS

an l.a. poetess
stormed out of a reading
a friend of mine was giving,

but not before she had intoned,
"i cannot abide poems
that are intended to make me laugh."

since then, i've been afflicted
with this nightmare
that she shows up at one of the
increasingly less frequent readings
at which i am invited to participate

and i can't find a single funny poem.

GERALD LOCKLIN