

TERMITE MADONNA

won't live alone.
She's social, likes
the time underground
but with a lot of
others. She prefers
an elaborate house
with lots of back
stairways and little
coves, a well main-
tained nest. She's
vegetarian, an egg-
laying machine, Her
ovaries are so big
her whole body swells
into a large sausage.
She loves to have
crowds of workers,
insists her house
point north and south
with broad faces to
east and west to get
the heat from the sun

THE HOTEL LIFSHIN IS NOT TAKING ON MORE

She's sick of changing
beds, or cleaning.
She's sick of being
down on her knees,

scrubbing your foot
prints off tiles,
sweeping up the
crumbs you've left,

getting your smell
out of the rugs and
pillows. She doesn't
want anyone to come

thru the door, the
open sign is off and
she is about to smash
it. She's had it,

making coffee on the
hour, making nice,
making witty. The only
thing she wants around

her house is a moat

—Lyn Lifshin

Vienna, VA

SANTA FE REDUX

end of a long day shopping
the turistas are bumping
into one another, hungry
in Old Town Plaza exhausted
as sparrows & pigeons pick at scraps
bicycle cops bust a carload
of lowriders drinking beer & whiskey
popcorn clouds frame the bare
darkened cottonwood trees
this last day of winter.