

## BELLADONNA\* CATALOG

Pamphlets are published in conjunction with the BELLADONNA\* reading series (Bluestockings Women's Bookstore, NYC) and are between 6 and 20 pages in length.

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18. Cheryl Pallant, *Spontaneities*
19. Lynne Tillman, *chapters from Weird Fucks and "Dead Talk"*
20. Abigail Child, *Artificial Memory*—vol 1 & vol 2 (\$6 set)

### published in 2002:

21. Deborah Richards, *Put A Feather In It*
22. Norma Cole, *BURNS*

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## BELLADONNA\* 23

# Dusky by Jocelyn Saidenberg

\*deadly nightshade, a cardiac and respiratory stimulant, having purplish-red flowers and black berries

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*Dusky* © Jocelyn Saidenberg 2002

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Belladonna is a reading series at Bluestockings Women's Bookstore that promotes the work of women writers who are adventurous, experimental, politically involved, multi-form, multi-cultural, multi-gendered, impossible to define, delicious to talk about, unpredictable, dangerous with language.

Bluestockings Women's Bookstore is at 172 Allen St., New York, NY 10002.

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# DUSKY

## or Destruction as a Cause of Becoming

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1.

to tell back dear, dusky, be told to tell, the wood and rugged valley with their quiet wellsprings. so that I turn and turned again to earliest flush. I might prevail against me step by step perceiving that my eyes were floods only makes me hungrier, for the appetite moved on and I follow in step.

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2.

a dusky air spread out a dusky slope at the outset sped along at the first moment that I grieved for suspense and caused the breast to shy by love. I move and speak and body stiffens by exhaustion; body enters on the roadway deep and wild.

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3.

the first night everlasting the darkening sky, casting over misgivings leads onwards to things unknowing commingled and degraded hope obscured out of mind to look and to pass by.

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4.

such is the twilight that gathers about us in some dim scene, across the moat. we have positively the image in the delicate dusk.

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5.

falters and depends on a sluggish embrace. their encumbrance, permanently constrained by body functions, falters again, requiring that someone, somewhere, be bound, fully with coldness. that's itself, failed, put another way, put very differently

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6.

their enormous discrepancy, huge gulf, penetrable chink in the grid makes for far flung and watery disgust, o sweet dusky. its own inventions, dazzle and fascinate it. to the extent it itself does not even realize it, it is destroying itself again.

these questions, answered in the preface and afterwards, made in the mode of protracted difficulties, sexual and martial, forcing the little thing's personhood.

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7.

"let me"

"stop it"

to suspend it not provoke it – a kind of work – forming it on surfaces, our glittering array, reflected and arousing.

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8.

an explosion. a storing up of aggressions. armor bleeding all over the street whoever walks nearby. broken. relieved of itself for an instant not by memory throwing itself out of itself meets with steadfast approval continuously.

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9.

an aggressive alchemy  
anti and anti

a clap from the bonds of sleep roused by violence and whereabouts. the brink  
that rims the gulf so deep it was a sightless world. I shall go and you shall come  
behind or you shall go and I shall follow. compassion misread as fear. ushering  
me in only sighs. quivering sighs. a murmur in the dusky forest. mighty. doing  
so, do well. forth from the quiet to the gusty to where it was gone and done.

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10.

here I circled back, dressed up, taming, coupled with doubt, swamped in relish.  
I made a spot for them called replenish, redress, wanting and covering,  
radioactively weekly, once, sometime next year, should be. gleaned, favoring the  
incorporation gathering, languor, suspicion and loathing, still refreshing.

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11.

is the inch of place and the times when we did and us spoke to me. reading  
spoke to me its deficit. sufficient forces to follow as if within us whose object  
was now sudden and gone from us. as in lackluster archives who wakened  
gradually dwelt along circuitous paths jostling toe to toe to make a version that  
is eating away at us, our uncorrosive alloys. intoning, locked into each other,  
enthralled, it holds and remakes in parts, noting it for you along your way.

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12.

when once again whichever way move or turn or look and every side alike,  
eternal rain, accumulate, cold and heavy. we come in the murky air, never  
changing yet submerged often with a turn to find quivering in rage in every  
limb. hollow forms of shadows that once were. reeking mud nearer will be than  
now. to step out onto the draft

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13.

unable to help the bird escape, the bird dies. he put the bird outside of his view, but still in danger, endangering to the rest. he hoped it would stay outside of his view, furious vision, but the bird reappeared, more dead, more in view than before.

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14.

inward upheaval accompanied by an obscure emotion of which I had taken little notice.

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15.

stand and snarl  
gnash your teeth  
examine the entrance

coiling around myself with each turn foredoomed a degree  
let no gait deceive you by its width

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16.

degradation is but one solitude more and yet another dark wall brooding gloomily. as if hunched over itself it seemed at this period it had no character at all shut away from ourselves as from others. powerless captive gagged. gaze vaguely out into an empty garden where the darkness slowly is gathering.

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17.

blind of light a function of chance  
as opposing winds whirled  
a tempestuous castigation  
those who have news and wallowing in it  
those whom love divorced from life  
those who through the dusky air gathered

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