

Winter 2005

Doubles: An Excerpt

by  
Mónica de la Torre



belladonna\* books

458 Lincoln Place, Suite 4B Brooklyn, NY 11238

[www.belladonnaseries.blogspot.com](http://www.belladonnaseries.blogspot.com)



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



**Doubles: An Excerpt**

**by**

**Mónica de la Torre**

**Doubles: An Excerpt** © Mónica de la Torre 2005

belladonna\* production and design, Bill Mazza.

It is set in Geneva, ITC Calson Medium and Bold, and ITC Officiana Sans.

Price is \$4 in stores or at events, \$6 signed copies,

mail order add 50¢ postage per item.

belladonna\* pamphlets are published periodically by belladonna\* books.

belladonna\*71 is published in an edition of 125—15 of which are numbered and signed by the poet—for her Belladonna\* reading with Mercedes Roffé and Hassen at the Zinc Bar, NYC, on March 24, 2005.

belladonna\* is a reading series 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.

Rachel Levitsky and Erica Kaufman, editors, belladonna\* books.

458 Lincoln Place, #4B Brooklyn, NY 11238

belladonnaseries@yahoo.com • <http://www.durationpress.com/belladonna>

# belladonna\* catalog

## 2000

1. Mary Burger, *Eating Belief* OOP
2. Camille Roy, *Dream Girls* OOP
3. Cecilia Vicuña, *Bloodskirt*, trans. Rosa Alcalá OOP
4. Fanny Howe, parts from *Indivisible*
5. Eleni Sikelianos, from *The Book of Jon*
6. Laura Mullen, *Translation Series* OOP
7. Beth Murray, *12 Horrors* OOP
8. Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, *Audience* OOP
9. Laura Wright, *Everything Automatic* OOP

## 2002

21. Deborah Richards, *Put A Feather In It*
22. Norma Cole, *BURNS*
23. Jocelyn Saldenberg, *Dusky*
24. Gail Scott, *Bottoms Up* OOP
25. Carla Harryman, *DIMBLUE* and *Why Yell*
26. Anne Waldman, *[THINGS] SEEN/UNSEEN* OOP
27. kari edwards, *a diary of lies* OOP
28. Bhanu Kapil Rider, from *The Wolf Girls of Midnapure* OOP
29. Rosmarie Waldrop, *Trace Histories* OOP
30. Tina Darragh, from *rule of dumbs*
31. Chris Tysh, *Mother, I*
32. Jennifer Moxley, *The Occasion*
33. Zhang Er, *Cross River . Pick Lotus*
34. Tonya Foster, *A Swarm Of Bees In High Court*
35. Lauren Gudath, *Animal & Robot*
36. Alice Notley, *IPHIGENIA*

## 2004

53. Joanna Fuhrman, *Belladonna\* Moraine*
54. Nada Gordon, *SONg of My OWnself*
55. Catherine Daly, *Surplice*
56. Caroline Bergvall, *GONG*
57. María Negroni, *Art and Fugue*
58. Lourdes Vázquez, *May the transvestites of my island who tap their heels*
59. Belladonna\* Bilingue: *Womens Work In Translation (vol. 1)*
60. Belladonna\* Bilingue: *Womens Work In Translation (vol. 1)*
61. Jaimy Gordon, *A Month of Love*
62. Rachel Daley, *You and Me Story*
63. Latasha N. Nevada Diggs, *Manuel is destroying my bathroom...*
64. Joan Retallack, *THE REINVENTION OF TRUTH*
65. Renee Gladman, *Untitled, Woman on Ground*
66. Nicole Brossard, *Matter Harmonious Still Maneuvering*

## 2001

10. Lisa Jarnot, *Nine Songs* OOP
11. Kathleen Fraser, *Soft Pages*
12. Rachel Blau DuPlessis, *Draft 43: Gap*
13. Nicole Brossard, *Le Cou de Lee Miller/The Neck of Lee Miller* OOP
14. Lee Ann Brown, *The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Reverse Mermaid* OOP
15. Adeena Karasick, *The Arugula Fugues VII-VIII* OOP
16. Aja Couchois Duncan, *Commingled: Sight*
17. Lila Zemborain, *PAMPA* OOP
18. Cheryl Pallant, *Spontaneities*
19. Lynne Tillman, chapters from *Weird Fucks* and "Dead Talk" OOP
20. Abigail Child, *Artificial Memory*—vol 1 & vol 2 (\$6 set) OOP

## 2003

37. Caitlin Mcdonnell, *Dreaming the Tree*
38. Eileen Myles, *We, the Poets*
39. Suzanne Wise, from *The Blur Model*
40. Lydia Davis, *Cape Cod Diary*
41. Elaine Equi, *Castle, Diamond, Swan*
42. Maggie Nelson, *Something Bright, Then Holes*
43. Summi Kaipa, "One: I Beg You, Be Still" from *Was. Or Am.*
44. Julie Patton, "Car Tune" & *Not So Bella Donna*
45. Joan Larkin, *Boston Piano*
46. Minnie Bruce Pratt, *The Money Machine: Selected Poems*
47. Anne Tardos, *A Noisy Nightingale Understands a Tiger's Camouflage Totally*
48. Michelle Naka Pierce, *48 Minutes Left*
49. Veronica Corpuz, *Untitled*
50. Leslie Scalapino, "Can't" is "Night"
51. Jen Benka, *A Revisioning of the Preamble*
52. Susan Briante, *Neotropics: A Romance in Field Notes.*

## 2003

67. Eileen Tabios, *THE ESTRUS GAZE(S)*
68. Susan Howe, *118 Westerly Terrace*
69. Corina Copp, *Play Air*
70. Lyn Hejinian, *Lola*
71. Mercedes Roffé, *Theory of Colors*
72. hassen, *Salem*
73. Mónica De la Torre, *Doubles: An Excerpt*

Pamphlets published in conjunction with the Belladonna\* reading series and are 6 to 20 pages. Books are \$4 ea.; \$6 signed editions; add 50¢ postage per item. Checks payable to Rachel Levitsky.

**Click Here if you are looking for MONICA DELATORRE.**

This page is simply a permutation of possible names.  
None of them are associated with actual people.  
These names also have nothing to do  
with the content in The Names Database™.  
To go to The Names Database™, click above.

**Delatorre**

Naoma	Loralee	Kallie
Maybelle	Gayla	Kathi
Breanna	Lauralee	Theda
Carey	Natashia	Jefferey
Britt	Margrett	Colton
Nicola	Justa	Jacquiline
Rosario	Nola	Louie
Mavis	Numbers	Pandora
Christene	Madlyn	Judy
Lyn	Lai	Mary
Ethelyn	Aida	Providencia
Sid	Ramonita	Emmett
Rudy	Jimmie	Jaqueline
Ronna	Valorie	Dan
Kymberly	Callie	Vanda
Salley	Avelina	Luis
Jorge	Ethel	Blythe
Jutta	Chauncey	Myong
Teresa	Gricelda	Augustus
Reiko	Janella	Clifton
Wilson	Nichelle	Emory
Margy	Debora	Teena
Gerardo	Rubin	Katia
Pearlie	Adella	Tonita
Denis	Kenneth	Kena
Nakita	Jaime	Monique
Claude	Donald	Shelby

Delatorre

Delatorre

Delatorre

From: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: Undisclosed recipients  
Subject: abandoned

I am looking for Mónica de la Torre, my biological mother. She traveled from Argentina to Barcelona with my father in 1975. They were both together there and in Minorea, where I was born. She went back to Argentina and disappeared when I was two years old, after being accused of subversive activities. I lived in Barcelona and New York until I was 16, but now I live in Argentina with my father and stepmother. I've heard rumors that my mother might be in the United States.

If you read this message and know something about her please communicate with me. It is possible that she doesn't use her real name now. Unfortunately we don't know what she looks like today. She had no birthmarks or scars in the past.

Thank you,  
Mercedes Correche

\*\*\*

From: Monica de la Torre <siliconvalleygrl8@yahoo.com>  
To: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
CC: Undisclosed recipients  
Subject: Re: abandoned

Hi! I am Monica de la Torre, but I am not your mother! I am Regional Student Representative for the #1 Region in the Nation, Region 1!! I live in Santa Clara, California, and am about to get my undergraduate

**The Names Database™**  
**Making The World A Smaller Place.™**

---

degree in Mechanical Engineering! After receiving my BS, I plan to attend Graduate School to pursue a Masters Degree in Information Systems.

I write to you to give you words of wisdom... I haven't always felt like a leader, but several experiences in my life have helped to put me in the position where I am now and to have the confidence that I have. I'm living proof of the quote "Leaders are made, not born!" I encourage you to have the same positive attitude towards life. Good luck with your search!

That's all for now from this Silicon Valley Girl,  
Monica de la Torre

\*\*\*

From: monica@door.org  
To: Monica de la Torre <siliconvalleygrl8@yahoo.com>  
CC: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
Subject: Re: abandoned

Dear Monica de la Torre,

I wanted to alert you to the fact that your reply to Mercedes Correche, daughter of Monica de la Torre, went to everyone on the list serve [www.sebusca.org](http://www.sebusca.org) and also let you know that I found it totally irresponsible. I don't know who you are or what you're thinking, but I'm pretty sure that the woman who found herself in the vulnerable situation of having to write such a painful e-mail did not appreciate your leadership messages.

As for you, Mercedes, believe it or not, my name is also Monica de la Torre. I am an officer at the Door Legal Services in New York, and I specialize on family law and the rights of teen parents or young people living independently. Should you need some information pertaining how you can go about dealing with your mother if you find her, please write to me. I'll gladly offer my services to you at no charge.

Compassionately,  
Monica de la Torre

\*\*\*

And that's not SO bad,  
if I survive the BITTER sip  
of coffee that does not WAKE one  
but rather induces the drowsiness  
of a SUB-marine turtle

I'm s  
i  
n  
king  
or plunging

into the green shell  
of an ORDINARY Sunday.

*Mi rival es mi propio corazón, por traicionero...*  
Where are you?

As for me, I dare say  
that I'm living these  
LAST minutes  
prefabricated

in a microwave oven,  
with the coffee dregs  
dissolved  
solved.

Five, four, three, two, two, two.

And the telephone?  
There's nobody home...

\*\*\*

From: mtp@texasam.edu  
To: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
Subject: Re: More to read

Hi Mercedes,

Listen, I'm very busy right now, and although I've enjoyed reading the poems you've sent, I don't have time to read them, no, I mean, comment on them. Your search made me curious, so as I was surfing I encountered the following website: <https://namesdatabase.com/>

Take a look at it! It might help you.

Hasta!  
Monica

From: meorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: mtp@texasam.edu  
Subject: More to read

Hi again, Monica,

Sorry to bombard you. I just found another poem in Spanish by another Mónica de la Torre. I wonder if my mother could have written this one at some point in her life. The poem was also translated by someone into English. It's weird, I have no idea of what it means, but you might like it.

-Mercedes

**Count-down  
by Mónica De la Torre**

Coffee and cookies?  
¿or do you prefer a cigarette to enjoy the vacant  
(I should have said lapidary)  
END of the year?

Is the one who a year ago  
—a year ago already—ate liquid grapes and salt  
still breathing?

As for me, I dare say  
that I AM dead  
and aLIVE  
and perhaps a bit sad,  
caught between the smoke and the teeth of James Bond  
with my own solitude, my steel rods,  
and my holes.

From: Becky Varnum <bevarnu@mindspring.com>  
To: meorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
CC: monica@door.org  
Subject: Re: abandoned

Dear Mercedes,

I am a close friend of Monica de la Torre, the legal advisor in New York. She sent me your e-mail because she remembered my mentioning to her that I had met someone with her same name at a tennis tournament. I play tennis and clearly remember beating a woman named Mónica de la Torre at the Wolverine Invitational in Ann Arbor in 1998. In fact, the final score was 6-2, 6-0. She had a Spanish accent that didn't sound familiar to me, and I remember that when I asked her where she was from she tried hard to convince me that she had grown up in Texas. She was a very good player, but she clearly was concealing something. This might be the person you're looking for. I can get in touch with the organizers of the invitational and ask them for more information on that strange woman.

Best,  
Becky

\*\*\*

To: meorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
From: Manuela <lamanuela@transmexicana.com.mx>  
Subject: Mi madre

Hi Meche:

My English is no good. ¿Hablas español? Do you speak Spanish? I don't know who you are or for what you wrote to me. My friend Manuela here in Veracruz has a transsexual website and says to me that you are looking for me. I am stripper, go-go dancer, performance artist and top model. Why do you want me? I do not want anybody to know the real name that my mamacita, descanse en paz, put me when I was brought to the world as a boy. I don't know you and for what you

wrote to me. Why do you want my data? If you have interest in my show come to Veraacruz, aventurera. If not then good-bye.

Chau honey,

Mónica de la Torre  
Lo mejor de Veraacruz

PD: You can see my photograph in the website. But careful with your baba, drool! Bad for the teclado, how do you say, the key boar.



**TRANSSEXUAL TOP MODEL: MONICA DE LA TORRE**

From: Veracruz, Mexico  
Lives in: Veracruz, VER, MX

\*\*\*

From: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: monica@door.org, bevarnu@mindspring.com  
Subject: Re: Re: abandoned

Dear Monica & Beeky,

Thank you both very much for responding. I appreciate your offering to help, Mrs. de la Torre. As for you, Beeky, if you could gather information for me I would appreciate it. I asked my father whether my mother was good at sports, or played tennis when she was married to him or in her youth. He said that she didn't care for sports because everyone in her "bourgeois" family was athletic and she just liked to stay home reading (& smoking cigarettes.) He said that she became less prejudiced when she read that Samuel Beckett was an excellent swimmer and golf player. He also mentioned that she had a lot of nervous energy that she liked to get rid of by getting involved in challenging physical activities. Maybe she is the tennis player.

I need to see my mother again. Thank you for your help,  
-Mercedes

\*\*\*

From: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: mtp@texasam.edu  
Subject: Re: Re: Cheek this out

Ili again Monica,

Ok, so you didn't write the poem. I'll translate it, since I think it's sweet.

Best, Mercedes

### **In Other Countries**

While we're watching TV  
children in foreign countries  
are dying without pity.

Wretched wars  
perpetual hunger  
are to blame  
for their deaths.

Children work  
since there are no schools,  
women work  
sowing the land.

The food they have  
is barely enough,  
and at times they have nothing  
to bring to their mouths.

This is why we must be compassionate  
and help them with everything  
that we can.

\*\*\*



C.P. Antonio Machado (Leganés)

POESÍAS 2001-2002

En otros países

*Mientras nosotros vemos  
la televisión  
niños de otros países  
mueren sin compasión.*

*Guerras malditas  
hambre sin fin  
tienen la culpa  
de hacerles morir*

*Los niños trabajan  
pues no hay escuelas,  
las mujeres trabajan  
cultivando las tierras.*

*La comida que tienen  
es muy poca,  
y a veces no tienen nada  
que llevarse a la boca.*

*Por eso debemos ser solidarios  
y ayudarles en todo  
lo que podamos.*

*Mónica de la Torre (6ªA)*

\*\*\*

From: mtp@texasam.edu  
To: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
Subject: Re: Check this out

Mercedes,  
Didn't I mention that I don't speak Spanish? I can't read this poem!  
-Monica

\*\*\*

From: bevarnu@mindspring.com  
To: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
Subject: Re: Re: abandoned

Dear Mercedes,

My daughter was planning a vacation to Spain (Cataluña, to be precise) and came across your mother's name again. There is a hotel in the medieval town of Regencós in Girona managed by a woman called Mónica de la Torre. The hotel is called the Hotel del Teatre, and was just opened in the summer of 2003. It seems like it was an old theater turned into a hotel. It has a website: [www.hoteldelteatre.com](http://www.hoteldelteatre.com). You might get her on the phone!

I haven't been able to get information on the tennis player. I'll keep trying.

Good luck,  
Becky

\*\*\*

From: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: mtp@texasam.edu  
Subject: Looking for my mother

Dear Monica de la Torre,

This is not spam. Believe me. I'm sorry for the intrusion, but I am looking for someone of your same name, who is my birth mother. She disappeared 27 years ago in Argentina. Would you be who I am looking for?

Thanks,  
Mercedes Correche

\*\*\*

From: mtp@texasam.edu  
To: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
Subject: Re: Looking for my mother

Mercedes,

Is this some sort of joke? Just because my name sounds Spanish doesn't mean that I am from Argentina. I am sick of receiving sales calls and junk mail in Spanish! What is this! If your last name is Hungarian does that mean that AT&T will send you Hungarian promotional material?

Anyway, I am not even 27 years old myself! I was born in 1982 and have never been married and have no children (that I know of!) As of now I am a graduate student at the Texas A & M University; I'm getting a M.S. in Food Science and Technology.

I am sorry I can't help you,  
Monica

\*\*\*

From: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: mtp@texasam.edu  
Subject: Re: Re: Looking for my mother

Monica,

Please forgive me. When I saw your name on the website I was so excited that I forgot to read the information included in the listing for you. I just went back to your page and read it. I'm very curious to know why you chose to study "the properties of fried and baked tortilla chips fortified with mechanically-expelled soy flour". What is that? Who eats that? Here in Argentina we don't have that kind of product.

Anyway, is there anyone with your same name in your family? What is your mother's name? I'm sorry to bother you again; I find it fascinating that you & I are almost the same age.

Good-bye,  
Mercedes

\*\*\*

From: mtp@texasam.edu  
To: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
Subject: Re: Re: Re: Looking for my mother

Hii Mercedes,

I'm sorry if I insulted you. There are many things I could tell you about my family, but I don't think they'll be of any worth to you. My parents are of Mexican descent, and I believe that they named me Mónica because I was born on May 4, Santa Mónica's day. I don't know that much about her except that she was the mother of St. Augustine. The last name is very common, you know? I wouldn't look too much into it. Actually, where was your mother from? I don't think that's a common last name in Argentina, where everyone has those Italian-sounding names. It'd have to be Delta Torri, no?

Anyhow, re your question about my interest in tortilla chips, I'm studying the properties of fortified ones because I think they're a healthy option for corn chips, which are low in proteins. Corn tortilla chips were the most popular snack in the nation last year. I am awed by the fact that so many otherwise starving Mexicans have survived on beans and tortillas only. I'm interested in developing nutritious and affordable foods that are appealing to lower-income people, who consume higher quantities of junk food than people in other economic strata. It could work, no?

Good luck with everything. You must find your biological mother.  
Monica

\*\*\*

From: mcorreche@tenaris.com.ar  
To: mtp@texasam.edu  
Subject: Re: check this out

Hii Monica,

I found this on a website. Did you write it? It sounds like you could have. I don't know what the site is. It seems to be for a grade school somewhere in Spain or something.