

WRITING SPOTLIGHT

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Dreaming of Heaven

from *Helen Takes the Stage: The Helen Keller Poems*
(Columbus, Ohio: Pudding House Publications, 2008)

by Kathi Wolfe

1 You say
 I can't speak
 of sound
 or write of light.

5 Moonbeams,
 symphonies
 are off-limits to me.

 Defectives, you insist,
 can't wipe

10 a crying baby's tears
 or escape
 a fire's wild orange flame.

 What right
 do I have to even talk

15 of color? you demand.

 No more right
 than you
 to tell of Paris,
 unless, like me,

20 you've inhaled
 the mingled scent
 of cigarettes and hyacinth
 drifting along the Seine.

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25 Can you know
the Pyramids,
if you haven't felt
the rough-hewn,
ancient stone,
the scratchy lick
30 of a camel's tongue,
the sandy silence
of the desert,
as I did one summer night?

35 Do you dare
to dream of heaven
when you've never been there?

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Photography by Henry Linser

Kathi Wolfe

Kathi Wolfe is a writer and poet. Her poetry has appeared in *Gargoyle*, *Potomac Review*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, *Not Just Air*, *Wordgathering*, *Breath & Shadow*, and other publications. Wolfe has received a Puffin Foundation grant and been awarded poetry residencies by Vermont Studio Center. Her poem "Blind Ambition" was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2007 *Passager Magazine* poetry contest.

Wolfe, who is legally blind, has read in many poetry reading series, including the Library of Congress Poetry at Noon series, and appeared on the public radio show "The Poet and the Poem." She is a columnist for Scene4 (www.scene4.com) and a Lambda Literary Foundation Emerging Writer.

Wolfe was a finalist in the 2007 Pudding House Press Chapbook competition and wrote *Helen Takes the Stage: The Helen Keller Poems*, published by Pudding House (www.puddinghouse.com).

In 2009 Wolfe was a winner of the Moving Words Poetry Competition, a competition sponsored by the Arlington County Office of Cultural Affairs and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Her poem "To Do List" was one of six poems (out of 400 poems) chosen to be placed on buses.

Wolfe also teaches poetry writing to blind and visually impaired youth.

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