

## Jenny Minniti-Shippey

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### **This Sorrow**

Is a dog sorrow  
is a lava creep sorrow  
is sink gathers dishes sorrow  
*a don't call this death* sorrow  
call this time instead sorrow  
is a silent sorrow  
sorrow that soaks the bones sorrow  
that makes broth of bones sorrow  
that sucks its own marrow sorrow  
this is a backpack of sorrow  
this is crawling sorrow  
this sorrow is on its knees in the ocean sorrow  
this sorrow slinks through the desert  
this sorrow is singing its sorrow  
how it sings sorrow  
how it stains the teeth  
how the words turn jelly sorrow  
when what's left is the pelt of sorrow  
when what's lost is the dust  
o the black dog never again in the shadows sorrow  
sorrow how it shadows these steps

## Sales Pitch

The opposite of a lion is a Lamborghini—

although a Lamborghini also roars,  
or *purrs* is what the car dealers say  
when they want to sell you a vision  
of your future—

a future you could purchase,  
in which beautiful young men with tawny coats  
lounged on the savannah of your pool deck,  
sweating as you are sweating—

the pool's promise,  
its blue big as the sky,  
the shock of water on your skin like the shock  
of skin on your skin,

all those shiny promises to be loved  
or touched forever, in this future,  
you are dancing under a night pelted  
with stars, the soft dark down

of the night, all the stars are whispering  
in your ear, making noises  
like applause—like you arrive to the future  
in a roaringly black car

not alone, your gold hair is in the breeze,  
the huge and relentless hunger  
of savannahs and salesmen all forgotten,  
you—you will be so happy, just wait, you will.

**Jennifer Minniti- Shippey** is the Managing Editor of *Poetry International* literary journal, Director of Poetic Youth programs, and a professor at San Diego State University. She is the author of *Done Dating DJs*, winner of the 2009 Fool for Poetry Chapbook competition, presented by the Munster Literature Centre; *Earth's Horses & Boys*, from Finishing Line Press; and *After the Tour*, from Calypso Editions. Her writing has appeared in *Salamander*, *Spillway*, *Cider Press Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, and others. Keep up with her news at [jennyminnitishippey.com](http://jennyminnitishippey.com)