

## MARY JO BALESTRERI

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### Inside Junk

Matches tunnel under the rubble of address books from Florida to Wisconsin looking for wicks to connect them to light. The holly berry votives have disappeared under the deadfall of old newspaper recipes, scotch tape and paper clips, random business cards spilled from the check box of 2001. Off to the side, the red Pizza Hut logo calls attention to its thick crust Supremes, while the black and white menu from Depot Café lays down its plain fare. It's obvious that others have sifted through this debris, as a miniature Luke Skywalker lifts his blue laser gun. But even he cannot save this drawer of planned chaos, of dated invitations, and knitting instructions for the mittens in my mind. This is my drawer of possibility, where the shadow is welcome and the id makes a mess, where I toss whatever interests me with no goal in sight and the mood ring just changes color. And now I see the tiny yellow chair, with its equally tiny man, the minute timer and the book of psychiatry, all in its own box, a gag gift from one of the kids. Obviously, he is much too small to tackle the unconscious in the house where we live.

## **It's Not the Move it's the Nature of the Move**

The way she sashays down the stairs,  
clicks those spike heels,  
sizzles her hips,  
flashes a cupid bow smile.

Definitely, it's the nature of it, not the move itself,  
even the way her bleached hair oceans down her back,  
or how she flutters her false lashes  
like electric black currents,  
the bracelets that spangle her arms.

I look at my book, try not to stare, but her Musk ignites each word,  
flames my desire.  
Her body's a torch.

If only I had a hot air balloon.

## **Emissary of Light**

tiniest mandarin  
sun in my palm  
without seed or netting  
with no strings attached  
segment after sweet segment  
of spiraled radiance

As the year spins cold  
as the indigo mood of lost jobs persists  
you give hope  
from a baldachin of boughs  
balls of orange fire  
a taste of paradise for the taking

**Mary Jo Balestreri** has two books of poetry published by Bellowing Ark Press, *Joy in the Morning* and *gathering the harvest*. Her chapbook, *Best Brothers*, was published August 2014 by Tiger's Eye Press. She has three Pushcart nominations and two Best of the Net. She is presently working on her 4th book of poetry and a book of essays. Mary Jo is an original member of Grace River Poets, an outreach of poetry for schools, women's shelters, and churches. Please visit her at [maryjobalistreripoet.com](http://maryjobalistreripoet.com)