

## Laurie Kolp

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### Removing Tattoo of You

palimpsest remembrances  
    metastasize my obsessive  
mind, erased and replaced  
    parchment meant to remind  
me of us only makes me  
    obsess, only makes me ink  
bleeding down your arm

## **Married to a Midnight Surveyor**

I overheard you last night on the phone  
talking about another woman,

about how you went down to see her,  
rode her in and out, stayed for hours.

You went on and on about  
how good she looked for her age

and how she was still wet when you arrived.  
While there, you said you scratched

your back and hurt your knee.  
You even said you were so tired

you could hardly move after  
surveying ship at midnight.

## **Summertime Drunkenness**

Embalmed, in a tinted bubble of time  
when ceiling lights crown heads

headboards creak, pupils dilate  
copper beeches, creepy ghosts

only he sees on icy cold summer  
nights, hostility as cockiness creeping

along the halls of shadowed mind,  
burning dark air with liquor.

## **In Recovery**

He's forgotten the stoic days  
rushing along on impulse,

his sallow face  
and swollen eyes  
a death-swallow beast.

He now approaches life  
on his knees,  
glowing with grace.

**Laurie Kolp**, author of *Upon the Blue Couch* (Winter Goose Publishing, 2014) and *Hello, It's Your Mother* (Finishing Line Press, 2015) serves as president of Texas Gulf Coast Writers. Laurie's poems have appeared in more than six dozen publications including the *2015 Poet's Market*, *Scissors & Spackle*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Concho River Review*, *Pirene's Fountain*. An avid runner and lover of nature, Laurie lives in Southeast Texas with her husband, three children and two dogs.