

have I had to unlearn or stop doing to arrive at this new perspective? Which beliefs stopped me from understanding a different perspective? How do these roles and the knowledge produced highlight power differentials?

<sup>2</sup>I am grateful to the work of engaged Buddhist Thich Nhat Hanh for this insight. Online: <http://www.plum-village.org/MindfulnessTrainings/14MT.htm>. Accessed December 21, 2006.

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## DESI DI NARDO

### Zephyr

Being a girl is one thing, being a lady is quite another  
 I don't know why he doesn't take the credit  
 Why he's never shown his face  
 The brave man who picked the cut-off age  
 That point when she's no longer soft and sinuous,  
 Pliant like a grasshopper or blithe like the breeze  
 Because what a girl has to say is far more wondrous  
 Her whole existence is unreal  
 Until the gray hairs catch up  
 And the luster in her eyes is misplaced  
 The lines below them do lead to somewhere  
 There is definition in her face  
 He wants her undefined, unexplained and supernatural  
 Not unfolded in the least

Being a boy is one thing, being a man is quite another  
 (Though a real gentleman is an entirely different matter)  
 It's too bad he won't show his face —  
 All I want to do is shake his hand  
 And grip it tightly to let him see my strength  
 If nothing else  
 Because a girl is one thing...  
 And a lady is quite another  
 It's really too bad he won't show his face —  
 At this moment I can only imagine  
 The metamorphosis  
 His manifestation  
 Transforming into something  
 Striking and substantial  
 Visible unlike me

*Desi Di Nardo is a published writer living in Toronto. She has had over thirty poems published in Canadian and American literary journals and magazines. One of her poems was featured in the Toronto Transit Commission series "Poetry on the Way" in summer 2006. As well, another poem was selected for International Women's Day and was performed at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Her work can be viewed at: [www.desidinardo.com](http://www.desidinardo.com).*