Poem To Eat

Better to bite into a poem,
its firm flesh, crisp
just off the BBQ
Never mind the cilantro and chives,
the poem is grabbed wiggling
on the hook, a little slimy
washed down with a glass of wine,
leaves one tingly
Words, like the best caviar,
melt on the tongue,
make you want to dance, cut in,
tango with the man with slicked-down
jet black hair
sit down to a game of poker, smug
with your poem-face,
never letting on that you never studied
villanelle or tanka,
slipping out a brilliant haiku from one corner
of your mouth, a cigarette dangling from the other
If you commit a crime after eating a poem,
you have the perfect alibi,
you were “under the influence”, poem-driven,
crazed by suspension of disbelief,
nibbling at manic crumbs left by poets
far more culpable than yourself

Alice Pero

Alice Pero is poet, dancer, musician and teacher of creative writing. Her poetry has been published in two Word Thursday anthologies from Bright Hill Press, Trés di-verse-city of the Austin Festival, Three Mile Harbor, Salonika, San Gabriel Quarterly, Albatross, Lummox, The California Quarterly, Carquinez Poetry Review and upcoming in Fox Cry Review. Her work can be found on the www on numerous sites, including jacketmagazine.com. She has been a featured performance poet on both east and west coasts, appearing at The Knitting Factory, Tribes, Barnes & Noble, Borders, Word Thursdays and Poetic License among others. She has read at the Austin International Poetry Festival for 5 years. Her first book of poetry, Thawed Stars, was hailed by the late Kenneth Koch as having “clarity and surprises.” In 2001 her poetry received two awards from The National League of American Pen Women and she has also won an award from the California State Poetry Society. Of her poetry Lyn Lifshin has said, “Alice Pero’s poems are deliciously open, brimming with leaps, twists and surprises, often joyful and fizzy as a fireworks display.” Alice has taught creative writing on both coasts and was a creative writing workshop leader for the New York City Ballet Education Department's poetry project from 1991 through 1996, teaching in inner city school of the five boroughs of New York as well as being poet-in-residence at a private school in New Jersey. She moved to Los Angeles in 1996 and continued teaching at both private and public schools, under the auspicbes of The California Poets in the Schools. In 2002 she founded a new reading series, “Moonday” in Santa Monica with fellow poet, Anne Silver which now makes its home at Village Books in Pacific Palisades.