

# Betty Poolside

She pleads with him to join her  
in the water, at first lightly,  
then with a rising insistence.  
He resists. She is unhappy.  
It is always the same, the woman  
calling the man to her, wanting  
to float together in their skin,  
and he on the edge of falling,  
regaining footing, then diving in  
when she is not looking. He is  
on his own time. Betty's beauty  
strikes me and I wonder if he sees it  
anymore the way the world does,  
how any other man could not  
say no. I learn they are married  
one year now. She talks to me  
in the Jacuzzi. I tell her  
I left my husband because  
he would not swim naked with me  
in the dark in the pool behind  
the fence at our house.

## Nancy Murphy

Nancy Murphy is a Los Angeles based writer and recent winner of the Aurora Poetry contest. Previous publications include *The Baltimore Review*, *Gyroscope Review*, *Stoneboat Literary Journal*, *Sheila-Na-Gig*, *glassworks*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Montana Mouthful* and others. She was recently featured in "Poets on Craft" at *Cultural Daily*. Through the non profit WriteGirl, Nancy has mentored teen girls and incarcerated teen girls and boys at writing workshops. She has a B.A. in American Studies from Union College, Schenectady, NY. Her first chapbook is due out this fall with *Gyroscope Press* and is titled "The Space Carved by the Sharpness of Your Absence." More at [www.nancymurphywriter.com](http://www.nancymurphywriter.com)

