

TOBI ALFIER

### Everybody Rides Lady Geraldine

No pin-ups, no tattoos  
Lady Geraldine starts fires,  
she doesn't put them out.  
Who gave this B-17  
such a wicked, wicked name?  
Nobody knows, and nobody rides for free.

"Mighty with a Spear"  
is what this name means in British.  
These boys. These brave  
young men...  
They believe home is just around  
the next corner, a pint  
and a kind and lovely listener.

They are correct. As she sits  
at the bed's edge shaking her hair  
into tangles to tell any story you please,  
you walk home alone toward base,  
moonlight filling the furrows of worry  
on your face, music and dance

fading softly with each hurried step.  
What tomorrow brings at this moment  
is only a curiosity, a story to tell  
to the best woman you know,  
the narrator of you speaking  
like a voice passing through rain.

**Tobi Alfier** (Cogswell) is a multiple Pushcart nominee and a Best of the Net nominee. Her current chapbooks include "*Down Anstruther Way*" (Scotland poems) from FutureCycle Press, and her full-length collection "*Somewhere, Anywhere, Doesn't Matter Where*" is forthcoming from Kelsay Books. She is co-editor of San Pedro River Review ([www.bluehorsepress.com](http://www.bluehorsepress.com)).