

CAROL LYNN GRELLAS

Anne Frank's Diary Speaks

For she marked the date June
12, 1942, her miniscule habitat
in lieu of dying. But you will only know

the parchment of her skin, the broken
and fragmented days between
heaven, hate and back again—

those far-reaching matters of genocide
that seized her thin frame and glowing
heart. I knew her well, long years together

and apart enduring the horrors of war,
her vellum soul inked, bookcase
yellowed, soft voice unforgotten

as it bellowed silent from the annex;
an underground love like a hidden
weapon stored in the labyrinth

of hollows, hollows, hollows.
Dear sanctuary girl, sanctuary girl,
her tattooed story etched on checkerboard

tome— words held secret withstanding
parades of Holocaust angled crosses,
clockwise bent, swastikas pacing

murky streets, sweet penned being
denying death, her hand unrelenting
extraordinary child, beautifully wild

unstoppable thing, despite how she wept,
how she wept, how she wept, where
no consequence could thwart memories

divinely kept. Oh Anne, you're alive
in your letters, chronicled from home through
the house beyond bones, empty shoes

and body piles. Your entries robbed
cloud high still unwritten, lost cries
from a visceral place. Goodness diarized

past your nameless betrayer; coward Nazi
from an ominous space, anonymous,
anonymous, anonymous.

CAROL LYNN GRELLAS is the recent winner of the Red Ochre Press Chapbook contest with her entry *Before I Go to Sleep*. She has authored several chapbooks along with her latest full-length collection of poems: *Epistemology of an Odd Girl*. Her work has appeared in a wide variety of anthologies and magazines including: *The Yale Journal for Humanities in Medicine*, *Able Muse*, *Poets and Artists*, and many more.