

99¢ HEART



ADA LIMÓN



## Little Wishes

What would I give for this:  
our real selves in warmth  
after a cold outside ride,  
tiny bodies upside down  
in my shiny chandelier,  
eyelashes to eyelashes—  
as the morning pushes clear.

## Bedtime Story

Quiet now, the dreamland bed buoys me. When L comes in, he puts his cold motor hands on my back to wake me on purpose. I dreamt last night that kittens were being born all over and I could not contain them. When I woke he was gone. I believe he had said, We sleep as a team, and I do not know if it was a dream.

## Grand Opening

Perhaps the wind will move the flap of the GRAND OPENING sign above the florist/deli next door that makes sandwiches named after all the presidents, and tomorrow the woman with the artificial heart will find her perfect housewarming plant for her new small guest. I want to be here when that happens, I want to cherish my own ninety-nine cent heart.



## A Darkening

Damn the deepening hole, the exquisite measuring of depth. Take me away from the water; I can no longer see my reflection from such a gruesome height.

## A Woman of a Certain Age

An overwhelming unfolding, a falling apart.  
A breaking open, a bundle of carnival tickets.  
A natural broom, a re-ordering of photographs.  
A full-fledged unknowing and sober going.  
A bird beak, a cat print, an owl pellet, a bone.  
A tree sprout, a muscle, a bare heart, a home.

## Spectateur Heureux

Our heroine is in love with moonshine  
and probably the moonshine maker.  
She is in love with the come-quickness  
of her criminal friends. She is in a  
breakneck speed to an unexpected  
fall. Let's watch her stumble into  
her own determined black.

**Author's Note:**

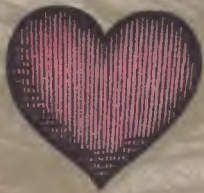
Ada Limón's first book *lucky wreck* was the winner of the Autumn House Poetry Prize and her second book *this big fake world* was the winner of the Pearl Poetry Prize and is due out in the Fall of 2006. She is very tiny and very much on your side.

**Colophon:**

99¢ *Heart* was published in an edition of 50 copies in September 2006. Text is in Georgia, cover titles in Dry Goods Antique. Paper is Royal Natural.

**BIG GAME BOOKS**  
**Washington, D.C.**

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TRYSIDE #19 BIG GAME BOOKS