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Man Mother

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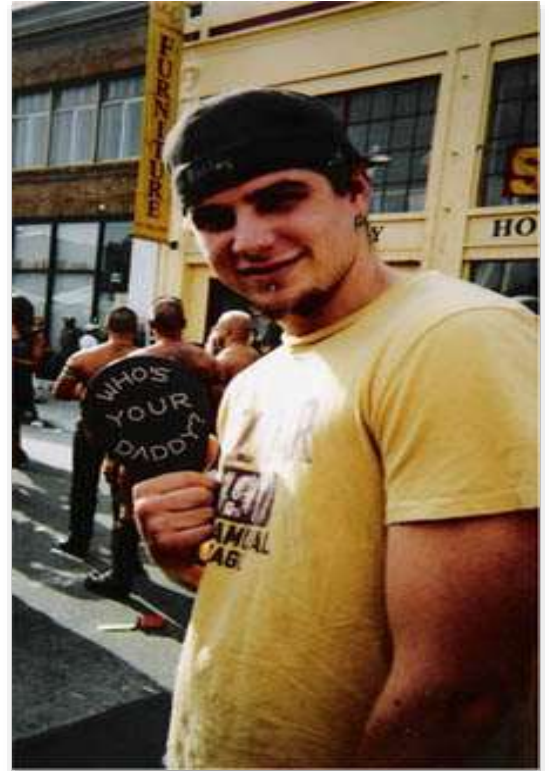
by Laurie Reiche

for Paul & his grown son, Devin

This is how the man can be the mother:
heart bravely scrolled wide open like the Torah
at high holidays; blood beating warm toward
the child-man he's raised with the mother.

This is how the man can be the mother:
rosy skin going ghost-white at the thought
of pain tainting his man-child; being soft
as the fertile sea, carrying its tide-blanket
onto shore, carefully covering the cold, hard
sleeping earth with affectionate waves.

And this is how the man can be the mother:
man to man; father to son; face to face
mouth speaking words of love.



Laurie Reiche

Laurie Suzanne Lessen-Reiche lives and writes in Petaluma. She is pursuing her BA/MAH here at Dominican University. Her work has been published in numerous magazines including The Princeton Arts Review, Southern Poetry Review, and Kingfisher. She is also a collector of books and has an impressive library including rare and hard to find Women's literature, literary criticism, philosophy, and poetry. She welcomes anyone interested in visiting or borrowing books to contact her by email: p.reiche@comcast.net