



On Earth As It Is

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# Insurance Report: Investigating Acts of God

Lisa Grunberger

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# on earth as it is

*prayer as story, story as prayer*

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ABOUT

AUTHORS

CONTACT



*photo by matthew simmons*

## *Insurance Report: Investigating Acts of God*

*Lisa Grunberger*

In the brick building on South and 9th  
the woman sat and smoked a cigarette by the window  
windows her landlord lied about  
because the hot air seeped in in the summer  
stalks her that's the word she used  
and in the winter the goddamned cold comes in  
the way her second husband used to with his muddy shoes.

More than anything she likes to look out the window  
and watch the tree across the street because  
she says the tree don't bite or scream or drop out of school  
like her grandson did or get itself pregnant like her daughter  
at 40 with a milk-man kind of man  
*a woman her age has no business procreating*  
as she lights one cigarette with the end of another.

*But you didn't come here to talk about how pretty that old cherry blossom tree  
is outside my ugly window did you?  
You came to talk about what I seen when the lightening hit the tree  
and fell on that '91 Buick where those love birds carry  
on night after night rocking that car until the birds begin to cry.  
I'd offer you a glass of something but I never liked cops  
or whatever official thing it is you are or seem to be  
and my faucet's just a trickle, no pressure, so it'd take  
too long to fill up a whole glass unless of course  
I added a few cubes of ice which I have but they're so old  
believe me you wouldn't want those cubes melting  
in something you're gonna have to take inside you, no  
you wouldn't want to take those ice cubes inside your body.*

Lisa Grunberger has published in such journals as *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Mudfish*, *Nimrod*, *The*

*Drunken Boat, Bridges, The Baffler, Poetica Magazine, Maintenant5: A Dada Journal of Cotemporary Art, In Our Own Words, Philadelphia Poets, Paroles des Jour, and Dialogi*, a Slovenian journal. Her one-woman show, *The Prayer Collector*, about the Western Wall in Jerusalem, was produced by Makor/92st Y in 2004. She is an Assistant Professor in English at Temple University. Her illustrated humor book, *Yiddish Yoga: Ruthy's Adventures in Love, Loss and the Lotus Pose* was published by Newmarket Press in 2009. Her poetry chapbook, *Born Knowing* is forthcoming (2012) from Finishing Line Press.

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