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## Lisboa, Lisboa

Barbara Varanka

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## Lisboa, Lisboa

### Abstract

*Lisboa, Lisboa*

has arms that reach for you.  
What is left of its lemon-stand  
girl? Deep like a spoon you dig  
for the city's last breath.

### Keywords

poetry, Portugal, metaphor, geography



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## Lisboa, Lisboa

by Barbara Varanka

*Lisboa, Lisboa*

has arms that reach for you.  
What is left of its lemon-stand  
girl? Deep like a spoon you dig  
for the city's last breath.

Like Caravaggio's Judith,  
you are the bright gash and the sword,  
the wine and fig  
divided.

Dark bride of the desperate  
rasp, you are the fat dripped  
from a wrung accordion, a street  
song drunk and stumbling,  
a hundred ribcages  
humming,

a belly full of  
*sofrimento*

(To Amalia Rodrigues and her Portuguese guitar)

*Barbara Varanka is a student in the Creative Writing MFA program at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She likes to listen to Portuguese fado music at full blast with the windows open.*

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