

DEBORAH EIBEL

## HOME COMING

Deborah Eibel (1940-2008) was born in Montreal, Quebec. She earned a bachelor's degree from McGill University in 1960 and a master's degree from Radcliffe College in 1962. She then taught English at the University of North Carolina and Haifa University before earning another master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1971. The following poem was published in the spring 1966 issue and included in the collection *Kayak Sickness* (1972).

Though none has ever bothered to molest  
The unmet lady getting off the train,  
She still has guilty dreams within her breast,  
For nutriment. But she is porcelain,  
For want of love. Now, on this harvest night,  
Her country birthplace lies in savage ease.  
On porches, in a wilderness of spite,  
Her cousins revel in their strategies.  
Their words incriminate the innocent—  
And so she is a spinster. Yet, in fall,  
She comes with no particular intent,  
To visit kin—a harmless ritual.  
And, palpable, she speaks. But kin are deaf  
To one who comes unbidden as a leaf.