

# Flesh

*by* Ginnah Howard

Here's to flesh:

silky flesh,  
and, oh yes, bones;  
3 cheers for ridges  
hip and jaw.  
Let's celebrate  
the clavicle and the patella;  
all the spaces where  
my fingers, toes and tongue  
dance upon the bony borders  
of your body—  
swirl and sweep and sway—  
the tarantella and the minuet.

Here's to the funny places:  
to gnarled knees and hairy toes,  
to nostrils and to knuckles.

To the Frog-King,  
that sweet swaggerer  
in all his phallic finery.  
Bravo. Bravo.

Here's to flesh:  
haunch and shoulder, fat and brawn.  
Hurrah to frail and fickle,  
yielding flesh  
and jutting bone.

