

# unsettling

*by* Helen Yung

dreamt i was selling drinks in a park at a fair  
men saying lewd things  
going to the supermarket to pick up lunch  
strange things  
papaya over-ripe displayed on the half  
with spoons sticking out -  
" very ripe, tastes good "  
blue crabs cooked with lavender  
i was sniffing a spoonful when the chef came out  
helped some people behind me  
said he knew me  
" you know carole & jim nugent, right ? "  
it didn't register at first  
my god mother & god father  
i daydreamed about leading him behind his own counter  
through the door, into the next room which was exposed  
people could see us pressed up against one another  
an embrace. was just a hug  
& then some  
i daydreamed it & then it was happening in the dream  
in mexico  
a great swirling hole is swiftly carved  
drilled into the earth  
great pieces of land moan  
& fall, collapsing  
slain  
the little people just make it out  
standing on the edge of this hell  
next i was in a cabin of a boat  
unreliable narrator  
who was i ? invisible, implicit

watching a woman in a red or purple dress  
sitting on the window pane  
    he inside the cabin packing or unpacking clothes  
    back to the window  
he thinks she's enjoying the sights  
doesn't see her  
    drop

    you can't sit on a pane of glass  
when it isn't sideways any longer  
    the man goes out with a helicopter  
her dad piloting  
    suspended by a bungee cord  
he sweeps the sea  
in search of her clinging to a life saver  
    nothing.  
    they return to the new base  
in mexico  
    jim & carole mock me  
" i heard you wouldn't even give him a hug."  
    " that's not true ! "  
    they laugh. " ah so the truth comes out... "  
    no one is looking for the woman in the dress  
    awake now  
i too  
regret  
leaving her at sea  
    tell me  
if she lives  
how  
    how many days lost  
can you live  
out at sea ?

