

THE  
NEW  
SORROW  
IS  
LESS  
THAN  
THE  
OLD  
SORROW

JENNY DRAI



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## NOTES:

he (Werther) spoke to his own limbs and chose to cast off a subject of disabled nearness. couldn't embrace her, as if, peering through water, he had jimmed himself into a preoccupation cage. I told you to read the last parts. has changed nothing. still I turn the next blank page. an imploded wave, those copycat suicides. a little ruby on white pillows. here I have had a little too much drink. here I have him saved. the only way to hold is as to break.

this eye is a lackey and very blue. Goethe in old age, running away from the dreary gray book. the other writer who tricked the story and filled the pistol with chicken blood. so that Werther might live. in old age, Goethe despised his own emotion. this wound is rub-salt, very full of noise. someone, somewhere, worships at a shrine. memory is full of embarrassment and embarrassment. young G., apprenticed to the law, in love with C.B., Charlotte Buff, one version of nude. she is a story conflated with one story, her love for Kestner. no surprise for outcome.



Photo: Steven Meredith

Jenny Drai studied German language and literature as an undergraduate, after which she lived in Munich for several years, working various odd jobs, including au pair, English tutor, and cleaning woman. After her return to the United States, she obtained an MFA in Poetry from Saint Mary's College of California. She is the author of *Letters to Quince* (winner of the Deerbird Novella Prize from Artistically Declined Press, 2015) and a full-length collection of poetry, *[ the door ]*, (Trembling Pillow Press, 2015). Another chapbook, *: Body Wolf.:*, appeared recently from Horse Less Press. Her poetry has appeared in numerous online and print journals, including *American Letters & Commentary*, *New American Writing*, *the Volta*, *Handsome*, and *Jellyfish*. She is currently at work on a novel. You can find her at [jennydraiisferal.tumblr.com](http://jennydraiisferal.tumblr.com) and [@jenny\\_drai](https://www.instagram.com/jenny_drai).