

## Maryann's Interview Eating Disorder Ward 6D



*(Shades of what I could not say)*

*Green*

*My body has always been to me, a disappointment.*

*Purple*

*Magic Marker in hand,  
I draw around one hip, then the other.  
Wishing some monster or  
fairy godmother would  
gnaw where I draw,  
bite my hips  
small.*



*Grey*

*is the pill  
Prozac,  
made to cure my  
Red Red throat*

*My body has not always been Green,  
My throat has not always been  
Red Red.*

*It began with one color coming up to say  
I didn't deserve the strength it could  
give me.*

*Now colors strangle my insides every day in their rush to leave.*

*My pretty boyfriend says "Stop."  
Begs me to keep all the colors he feeds me for myself.*

*Even the succulent pears  
my sweet girlfriend slices for me,  
my body rejects.*

*I'll bake them brownies,  
and cookies,  
Hoping they'll feel better.*

*I bake for the staff too.  
The kindly white doctor with the southern drawl  
licks the chocolate morsel from his  
moustache and asks,  
"Is it those magazines, talk shows, ads?"*

*"These colors are my own creation,"  
I almost reply*

*It's one of the  
few traits I have left.  
If I give this up,  
I will be too ordinary.*

*In the mirror  
I look at my dry hands,  
tepid lips,  
pale skin.*

*If these colors don't come back to me,  
I'll be just as gray as that  
Prozac pill.*

*Tell me about change, doctor.*

*It's just that rather like being  
small small.*

Jacqueline T. Dahl



Illustrations by Laura and Mallory

Ms. Dahl is a member of the Class of 2004 at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. This poem won honorable mention in the 2000 William Carlos Williams Poetry Competition. She began writing poetry during her work with *Wild Onions*, the art and poetry journal of Penn State College of Medicine, and through the Department of Humanities' program in writing poetry with patients, families, medical personnel, and the community in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Her address is: 119 UME, Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033. E-mail: jxw303@psu.edu.