

# Waterways:

Poetry in the Mainstream

VOLUME

26



## Waterways: Poetry in the Mainstream, Volume 26, #4

the high cost of  
living isn't so bad if you  
don't have to pay for it . . .

*the merry flea*  
*from ARCHY AND MEHITABEL*

# **WATERWAYS: Poetry in the Mainstream**

Volume 26

Number 4\*

Designed, Edited and Published by Richard Spiegel & Barbara Fisher

Thomas Perry, Admirable Factotum

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## The Shaman Who Sells Today — Eric Weiskott

will die tomorrow. Monks will chuck his casket  
off the black rock cliff. *The sea, they say,  
will roll him over the edge of This World.*

But today I wait on a wine cask  
in his back room. On shelves, one million jars  
shelter sea-glass pebbles from the musk of myrrh.

Pastels flow  
from pebble to pebble, palettes  
for one million futures.

Robed in purple, he enters,  
gestures, murmurs *One million tomorrows*  
*and one today*. The nearest jar

holds one jag of obsidian.  
I memorize the scalloped edge,  
the curve of noon light on the frozen rolls.

I gaze off the black rock cliff, shaking in the blast.  
He's behind me, shouting *For fifty dollars, sir?*