

Retreat From The War Zone: Lebanon 2006

For the first time in three weeks
George the Christian driver blessed
Himself just before he turned the key
In the ignition the streets like
New England beach towns
Before a hurricane

Getting through the center of the city
Took no time we gathered
In a luxurious apartment
Overlooking the Mediterranean
Waited for a hired bus the maid
Served coffee and wine there
Were pistachios hummus sweets
The kids ran around we smoked
Drank told jokes

Show Cancelled: Baalbek Lebanon 2006

That was the day they kidnapped
A couple of Israeli soldiers
I don't remember seeing any guns
Maybe the Hezbollah boys who
Handed candy out on the road
Had them sling over their shoulders

The Roman ruins were the best
I'd ever seen free standing columns
Seven stories high acres of temples
And hundreds of white folding chairs
Set up for a month long series
Of musical events the first
In thirty years since the occupation

Botox: Beirut 2006

Like a Lemming
Rushing to the shore
I couldn't beat
A path fast enough
To the doctor's office
For a shot
Between the brows
Before I laughed
With expression
After I looked like
Every other woman
Not an eyebrow
In the room lifted

After Thirty Years of Occupation:
Beirut 2006

Most women are Botoxed
Have lifts and tucks
Some pump up their lips and cheeks
A friend uses a tanning booth
Another had her stomach stapled
Everyone's hair is done and dyed
Pedicures manicures and facials
Are the norm so too designer
Hand-bags big enough to hold
A couple of cluster bombs
High heels for traipsing through
The un-mapped mind fields
Movie star camouflage sunglasses
They really know how to pull it off

Please recycle to a friend!

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Cover photo by Kik Williams

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The Road Home

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The Road Home



Kik Williams

The Road Home: Beirut 2006

I was up at five-thirty to get ready
For a flight home the driver was
Expected to arrive in an hour
I showered dressed packed
When suddenly I heard an explosion
Out my third floor window of the hotel
A big black cloud of smoke rose
About a mile away I called the front
Desk *are they bombing in Beirut*

I don't know Madam I will find out for you
Minutes later another explosion
Now there were two large black clouds

The driver called *the airport has been bombed*
There would be no flights out of Lebanon
I should call the embassy
He was so calm *go have breakfast and we*
Will talk later

The man who answered at the embassy said
No one would be in until nine
But Beirut is being bombed
Later they said to download
A form and fax it to them with my email address
A copy of my passport
They would email me about getting out of Lebanon

I moved from the hotel to my friend's home
Their daughter was on her honeymoon
There was a spare bedroom
My family was worried
They called the State Department
I should *stay put until further notice*
Under no circumstances was I to travel
To Syria

Two days later I boarded a bus with thirty
Friends headed for Syria
I never heard from the embassy

