

Ann Howells

And why not?

for Barrie

I see him today in the coffee shop,
and again, at the bookstore checkout,
start forward,
greetings filling my mouth:
*How are you? Where have you
been keeping yourself?*

Others glimpse him too,
squeezing oranges at the farmer's market,
chatting with a pharmacy clerk,
while some,
peering from upstairs windows,
spy him
walking his neighbor's small dog.

Do I believe in ghosts?
I've seen grandfather walk
on the anniversary of his death.
Why not this indomitable man?
Always strong willed,
death is a door
he refuses to close behind him.

Ann Howells of Dallas, Texas has edited *Illya's Honey* eighteen years, recently digitally at www.IlyasHoney.com. Publications: *Black Crow in Flight* (Main Street Rag Publishing), *Under a Lone Star* (Village Books Press), *Letters for My Daughter* (Flutter Press), an anthology of D/FW poets: *Cattlemen & Cadillacs* (Dallas Poets Community Press), and *Softly Beating Wings* (Blackbead Books) winner of the William D. Barney Chapbook Contest 2017. Her work appears widely in small press and university publications; she received her fifth Pushcart nomination this year.