

*Friends of Mrs. William Burroughs*

Liza assists William Burroughs' wife to raise money for a retirement fund. It doesn't occur to Liza that Mrs. Burroughs has been shot in Mexico with an apple on her head.

I ask Liza to marry me.

She is with her family and the Burroughs fundraisers, who are friends with her sister, Christmas Eva.

Liza helps me get from A to B and tells her family, "She's got her shit together now."

God puts her face in my heart. I strive to let it go, but Liza's better than all the *shiksas* I've dated.

"You're whoring around," Liza yells, and sees me running with other women, including a Jew/Italian from the Bronx who lives in Italy.

She leaves me a letter and pays for my food.

My brother Robert, upon seeing her, says, "Don't plague my sister."

Liza's brother Marvin is semi-delighted to see me. He has frosted his hair since my outing Liza.

After I outed Liza, she wanted to throw me out of the car, but I persuaded her to instead purge my dead mother's cupboard of tuna fish cans. *Solid white*.

Liza wants to kiss me in the shower while I'm using Dr. Bronner's soap.

There is a cyst in her intestines, which nearly ruined my vacation.

I'm worried she might die without me.

I hold her during chemotherapy treatments and radiation oncology appointments.

Our friends say she doesn't ask about *me*—the lost dust particle in a Bugs Bunny set where he runs from Elmer Fudd.

Eleanor Levine's work has appeared in *Fiction*, *The Evergreen Review*, *Midway Journal*, *Pank*, *Hobart*, *Connotations Press*, *The Coachella Review*, *Milk Magazine*, *BLAZEvox*, *Atticus Review*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *The Toronto Quarterly*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Lunch Ticket Magazine*, *Prime Mincer*, *Happy*, *Gertrude*, and *Thrice Fiction*; it is forthcoming in *Knee-Jerk Magazine* and *Hot Street*.