

5-1-2017

## Everday Hauntings // Brigantine Beach Blues

Nicole Pero  
*SUNY Geneseo*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knight scholar.geneseo.edu/gandy-dancer>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Pero, Nicole (2017) "Everday Hauntings // Brigantine Beach Blues," *Gandy Dancer Archives*: Vol. 5: Iss. 2, Article 12.

Available at: <https://knight scholar.geneseo.edu/gandy-dancer/vol5/iss2/12>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at KnightScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gandy Dancer Archives by an authorized editor of KnightScholar. For more information, please contact [KnightScholar@geneseo.edu](mailto:KnightScholar@geneseo.edu).

# Everyday Hauntings

I see an open-mouthed man in her pupil. He is pressed to the glass.  
He looks lost and confused, and every time her eyes close for a blinking  
second I hope he won't be there, but those yellowed teeth and frenzied  
laugh lines stick like window clings. I start seeing him in others' eyes, too,  
my mother, sister, paper boy as I hand him an envelope for the daily trek  
up my hill. The man makes tired yawns sometimes, his hair haphazard  
and sleeping robe open to age-spotted chest. I find the man in my cereal spoon,  
flipped upside down but still looking haggard. It is when he paints the mirror glass  
that I shatter it with a wayward golf club and stop going to work.

# Brigantine Beach Blues

I feel in me a shuddering hole  
formed of broken seashells and boardwalk splinters,  
gone too soon for my comfort, I want  
to spend days upon days huddled in the '90s set,  
*Golden Girls* style. Mirrored walls,  
glass and white wicker furniture  
plus a cruddy pull-out couch.  
This timeshare is what's keeping me whole,  
sunburned and laughing at my father  
who left the keys in his other swim trunks.  
He calls the locksmith, one hundred dollars for  
a credit card and a quick jiggle of the knob.  
It sounds like the word for mourning  
something you haven't lost yet.