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## Paper Angels

Jennifer Bilton

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PAPER ANGELS

Jennifer Bilton

A thread runs up her spine  
knitting verses of Heaven into her bones.  
Braids fall into halos, black onto white.  
Angels fall on strings of glory  
glowing before the unholy.  
This child  
has hidden a soul behind  
proud and shy eyes.  
Her lips turn up in a  
knowing smile, her dark skin  
shines before walls  
of fire and a shadow that  
is not her own. Still worldly,  
she has turned her back  
to the painted streets of Hell,  
covered the world in white.  
And grace dangles  
on the end of her string.

On Mary Whyte's *Paper Angel*

[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-5DI5piiYm5s/T-yjkk7ngQI/AAAAAAAAARKY/j2MzEeogkL0/s1600/Mary+Whyte++\(26\).jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-5DI5piiYm5s/T-yjkk7ngQI/AAAAAAAAARKY/j2MzEeogkL0/s1600/Mary+Whyte++(26).jpg)