

TERMITE MADONNA

won't live alone.
 She's social, likes
 the time underground
 but with a lot of
 others. She prefers
 an elaborate house
 with lots of back
 stairways and little
 coves, a well main-
 tained nest. She's
 vegetarian, an egg-
 laying machine, Her
 ovaries are so big
 her whole body swells
 into a large sausage.
 She loves to have
 crowds of workers,
 insists her house
 point north and south
 with broad faces to
 east and west to get
 the heat from the sun

THE HOTEL LIFSHIN IS
NOT TAKING ON MORE

She's sick of changing
 beds, or cleaning.
 She's sick of being
 down on her knees,

scrubbing your foot
 prints off tiles,
 sweeping up the
 crumbs you've left,

getting your smell
 out of the rugs and
 pillows. She doesn't
 want anyone to come

thru the door, the
open sign is off and
 she is about to smash
 it. She's had it,

making coffee on the
 hour, making nice,
 making witty. The only
 thing she wants around

her house is a moat

—Lyn Lifshin

Vienna, VA

SANTA FE REDUX

end of a long day shopping
 the turistas are bumping
 into one another, hungry
 in Old Town Plaza exhausted
 as sparrows & pigeons pick at scraps
 bicycle cops bust a carload
 of lowriders drinking beer & whiskey
 popcorn clouds frame the bare
 darkened cottonwood trees
 this last day of winter.