

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA

W E S T V I E W



Volume 33
Issue 1 *Westview*

Article 20

5-1-2017

Jean

Dennis Ross

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ross, Dennis (2017) "Jean," *Westview*: Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol33/iss1/20>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

 SWOSUTM

Jean

by Dennis Ross

Paranoid schizophrenia the doctor said.
Fine, but Jean always strives to help me
some way when I get her groceries and meds,
bakes me cookies with the ingredients
on hand: flour, sugar, eggs, and prunes.
She likes delicate subdued flowers
like spring beauty, hepatica, and buttercups
nothing too exciting, red roses or amaryllis.
Jean glues magazine pictures into journals
with poetry she has found, Frost and Oliver,
writes her own haiku, reads Hemingway
especially the short stories about fishing.
She worries about a young boy not there,
but also sees love and compassion in every face
she meets, understands people better than I.

She wants release from her prison
from the gruff voices other people do not hear
from her emphysema and collapsed lung
wants to fly away and now lies dying.

Jean will leave a hole in my life, a vacant lot
in a row of houses where one burned down
leaving only grass and wild flowers.