

## Patricia Carragon

### i've got you under my skin

(sung by frank sinatra)

her mother's art deco mirror once her best friend  
now her worst enemy

time lacked compassion for women's feelings  
especially the pretty ones who lived alone  
even the mirror's silver-plated aztec design  
had her own nicks and scratches

the daughter used the mirror's comb & brush sisters  
to groom her faded curls  
like the comb the daughter also lost a few teeth  
like her mother the daughter grew stout  
her skin outlined from too much sun alcohol & cigarettes

years of disgust & hormonal discord run in her family

losing her boyfriend killed by friendly fire  
got under her skin her happiness sacrificed

The daughter no longer crossed her legs  
her posture stiffened

whenever her lips clenched her vulva would tighten

for the mirror the night had a warning voice

the daughter had a favorite song once shared with her boyfriend  
the radio played it caused the daughter to lose her grip

the mirror landed facedown on the hardwood floor  
the daughter picked up the mirror  
her reflection a puzzle on dead glass

**Patricia Carragon** has been widely published online and in print. Her poem, *Paris the Beautiful*, won Poem of the Week from great weather for MEDIA. Her latest books from Poets Wear Prada are *Meowku* and *The Cupcake Chronicles*, and *Innocence* from Finishing Line Press. Patricia hosts Brownstone Poets and is the editor-in-chief of its annual anthology. Her debut novel, *Angel Fire*, is forthcoming from Alien Buddha Press. She is an executive editor for *Home Planet News Online*. Patricia lives and creates in Brooklyn.