



ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN VOLK

Dark Raucous

by Misti Bernard

the night people move in the world tonight—dark birds raucous, brought out by wind from the mountain, blowing them close to earth. an edge to the growing storm-in-motion, an edge to the leaves being pushed before formless hands, by invisible breath—brought forth by the sliver of moon now hidden in secrets, draped by clouds and shrouded from sight by nighttime risings and biding silence.

even the bar-men feel the edge to this night, an october's night in august, a halloween prescience that bids 'walk soft in silence'. carry a big stick, mace, *protect yourself girl*, he called to me across the deserted street. you shouldn't be walking home alone tonight, this misplaced, veils thin, spinning-strangeness night. ravens watch this night, owls howl like wolves and faerie tales are spun to scare kids straight from the stuff of which this night was made. hairs raise on the back of the neck and say *take care*, beware all the things your child-self feared. this night: all real.

Misti Sorenne Bernard is an intrepid traveler, musician, poet and student of religions. She has three CD's of Irish/World music and is currently working on a fourth. See www.oldsoles.com or contact her at urban_dervish@yahoo.com.

◆ *Lauren Volk is a fine artist and collage artist living in Marina del Rey, California. She considers her art to be a visual, spiritual and symbolic way of working with the subconscious, the internal that becomes external and is reflected back for awareness and transformation. She teaches illustration and design, runs the L.V. Design Studio, and can be reached at lvdesign@vzavenue.net.*