

Listening
Leslie Dianne

After dark
you stop
speaking
the light takes
your words
extinguishes
their glow
you fall silent
out of respect
for the night
and I fall silent
with you
so I can listen
to your touch

Leslie Dianne is a poet, novelist, screenwriter, playwright and performer whose work has been acclaimed internationally in places such as the Harrogate Fringe Festival in Great Britain, The International Arts Festival in Tuscany, Italy and at La Mama in New York City. Her stage plays have been produced in NYC at The American Theater of Actors, The Raw Space, The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater and The Lamb's Theater. She holds a BA in French Literature from CUNY and her poems have appeared in *The Lake*, *Ghost City Review*, *The Literary Yard*, *About Place Journal* and *Kairos* and are forthcoming in *Hawai'i Review*. Her poetry was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize.