



Welcome to the first installment of GDT's special issues dedicated to Samhain. Our first submission comes from a contributor living in New Jersey. Those of you who regularly read GDT might recognize her name; she's submitted to GDT before. Enjoy Andrea Chrisman....

Tomorrow's issue: *Strange Laments.*

the ballad of amelia dew

there was a girl went wandering,
she went out to be free.
pacing 'long the cape may dock
she whispered to the sea.

enchanted by the twilight mist
that rolled in with the tide,
she lost sight of her mother and
then lost sight of her stride.

falling down below the waves
the darkness circled round
Amelia drifted deep below
and couldn't make a sound.

at last a lamp returned her sight,
showing her white towers bright
emitting random points of light
returning colours to their right.

greeted by a young man of gold
at the door to palace gate
he took her hand and led her in,
offering to be her mate.

to him she said in tearful tones
"i cannot live here long with you
handsome boy i belong above,
i cannot breathe this water blue."

he stopped and grabbed her hand and screamed
"You are mine! You cannot leave!"
he coaxed her and then offered free,
a loyalty for his reprieve.

Just as he grew tired the fight,
he mused "what a plump young lady here."
he pinched her cheek and began to grin
"what a feast you'll make for me, dear."

the gold boy sat and watched the men
as they slaved all day to make his din.
just as she was about to scream
they opened the oven and shoved her in

to the table she was brought in,
the golden boy folded napkin thin
he grabbed a hand, then chewed a limb.
fought with gristle along her chin.

just as she lie
digested alive,
she heard a voice
like her mother's cry

"come back from the water
my sweet young thing,
the tide's coming closer,
it will suck you in."

awakened from a dreamlike trance,
the young girl jumped to run
tripped over her bright long dress
and fell with setting sun.

slipping from the dock she fell
into the ocean's frightening spell,
drowning as free as time can tell
with pearls in eyes where tears should well.