

# ***Visionware*** **by Caridad Moro-McCormick**

Review by **Melissa McEwen**

Finishing Line Press, 2009.  
29 pages.

*Visionware* is a woman.  
*Visionware* is a bilingual woman.  
*Visionware* is a Cubanita eating

“Harina con huevo frito...at Abuelo’s house...”  
— from “Compulsion: A Chronology”

*Visionware* is an American woman eating

“Steak-um sandwiches with oil-and-vinegar potato chips...”  
— from “Compulsion: A Chronology”

*Visionware* is a woman with meat on her bones.  
*Visionware* is a woman struggling with her weight:

“Imagine a fat girl like me  
shopping for a size 6...”  
— from “The Perfect Dress”

“The pills are small and...yellow,  
the closest thing to magic I’ve ever tried, so I pledge  
allegiance to the doctor who doles them out...  
and...weight falls off my frame five pounds a  
weigh-in...”  
— from “Compulsion: A Chronology”

*Visionware* isn’t

“...la nina bonita  
my parents wanted me to be,  
hands tangled

in suds and Brillo,  
the kind who waited./I counted the minutes  
for lover boy  
to stroke me down.”

— from “Putá”

*Visionware* is an attractive woman:

“...a gang of troubadours singing your praises  
*Damn, baby, you so fine!*  
as we walked in. And you were  
the kind of girl who could get away  
with Brazilian jeans...”

— from “That Night at the Rack ‘Em Room”

*Visionware* is a strong woman:

“You would have thought her a dignitary, the day she walked  
into my 6th grade classroom, staccato heels, her good black dress  
ironed crisp as a dollar...”

— From “Analfabeta”

*Visionware* is a woman in love:

“Her hands found me  
engineers surveying  
a landscape of thighs  
pockmarked thoroughfares  
stretching for miles  
free of girders...”

—from “At That Motel on 8th Street”

“[B]ut once  
you pressed me up  
against the wall  
of that plush, pink  
dressing room, kissed  
me slow and deep...”

— from “The Perfect Dress”

*Visionware* is a heartbroken woman:

“These days  
you’ve quit smoking  
and I’ve quit you  
but I ache  
to call  
and take  
what I can get  
a sliver  
of not enough...  
Better to forget  
that cigarette  
than have to  
wean myself  
off you  
one more time.”

— from “Like Finger Sandwiches for Sumo Wrestlers”

“He is all there.  
Disney promises,  
fairy tales,  
a cameo carved out of soap.../I was  
an indulgence.  
Cashmere draped across your thighs,  
brownie binge after years of salad,  
sweet cling peaches in February.”

— From “For my Lover Returning to her Husband”

*Visionware* is every woman and is the newly released chapbook by Caridad Moro-McCormick. Part of the New Women’s Voices Series, *Visionware* explores all aspects of womanhood — daughterhood, wifeness, and motherhood. In a voice strong and sure, Caridad Moro-McCormick’s poems do not flinch. Moro-McCormick is not afraid to confront what some might deem unmentionable or topics that others might shy away from. The fearlessness of these poems is what makes *Visionware* an impressive read.