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## White Jack

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## **White Jack**

*(1/10/2007- 4/4/2020)*

1.

Jacky wobbles, noses  
the grass, foliage, flowers  
like a bumble bee,  
then falls away,  
a puff of white dandelion.

2.

What was the world like before snow,  
before going to different shelters to find a dog,  
settling on white, light, fluffy?

3.

The security guard says, "Stay safe"  
as I leave the grocery store.  
Yes, stay safe, don't love, don't look,  
don't watch the black poodle sprinting across the park  
and licking his companion's face,  
don't look at the French bulldog in the purple bow tie  
bringing her ball like an ambassador to each distanced human,  
don't look at the golden retriever sauntering with the lone child,  
her tail lowered to half-mast.  
Stay safe, don't get a dog,

don't go to a shelter, don't enter a pet store,  
look at the balls, frisbees, food bowls, carriers, beds.

**ANDREA NICKI** is the author of three books of poetry, *Welcoming* (Inanna Press, 2009), *Noble Orphan* (Demeter Press, 2014), and *You Can Make Your Own Rose* (Mago Books, 2018). She is a senior lecturer in ethical leadership at Fairleigh Dickinson University and is currently writing a multi-disciplinary book of essays which, in part, explores some of her poetry for Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.