

THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 4 | 1995

Privacy Rose Ausländer

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

The Prose Poem: An International Journal is produced by
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)
for the Providence College Digital Commons.
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 4

Rose Ausländer

PRIVACY

Sometimes I wish to be left alone and undisturbed. But that's impossible: street noise and the voices of neighbors live in my room. If I open the window, gnats, flies, moths, sparrows fly in, sometimes even an elf or an angel. Each wants something from me: a little blood, the scent of my skin, a morsel of food, a malicious prank, a soft-spoken hallelujah. You'd like to give each their due, but you have to give yourself your due as well, hear your own voice, leave off the pious prayers, be able to curse everything. This happiness is seldom given.

Translated from the German by **Gary Sea**