

8. Rivka Basman Ben-Chaim

No. 17. "Scorched Bees".

You don't even know  
how well off we are,  
we Jewish orphans,  
who lay out our pain in Yiddish,  
like bricks added to a doomed building,  
a building  
where angels sing near the walls  
and the song reaches  
the heavens.

You have no idea  
how sweet it is  
to sing with an angel.  
Melodies circle round  
like scorched bees -  
they will yet discover honey  
in a Yiddish word.

(Translation by Barnett Zumoff.)