

articles about Hitler as a person: his personal life, his background, his childhood, his relatives, and so on. I thought it was coincidental that I became interested in this idea while unaware that all of this public interest was going to surface, as well. But, given that interest, the subject seems timely.

**JS:** Will your next collection of work offer more of these “lost” voices?

**VS:** Yes, they will be central to my next book which will be *All of Your Messages Have Been Erased*. It is scheduled for publication in summer 2009 by Louisiana Literature Press at Southeastern Louisiana University. The editor is Jack Bedell, who published *Gleanings* and *Hardboot*. He has always been a terrific editor right on schedule.

## JOEL ALLEGRETTI

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### LOT'S WIFE

Do you know Bera? He was the king of Sodom.  
 And Abram? My husband's uncle.  
 Do you remember my name? Of course not.  
 You don't recall what no one bothered to record.  
 I will tell you my name is Bad Girl. Wife Who Must  
 Be Disciplined. Woman Who Doesn't Know Her Place.  
 I served my man faithfully. Scrubbing the floors.

Picking sand from the lentils. Roasting the lamb  
 Until the sputtering fat raised blisters on my hands.  
 Breaking my back carrying the water jars.  
 Bearing his children. But he was the righteous one.  
 The good one. Who thrust his daughters before the city's  
 Preening queens. Who believed their virtue less costly  
 Than an angel's backside. Listen. We *all* were Sodomites.

While cattle licked and eroded my haunches,  
 The apples of their father's eye dulled him with wine,  
 Then had their turns with him to continue the line.  
 What could come but a race of drooling, slope-browed idiots?  
 As for me? Know that I *am* the salt of the earth;  
 But as far as you or anyone is concerned, I'm fit only  
 For seasoning the wreckage and bones of the damned.