

*Ghosts of New Orleans*  
Noel Kroeplin

*In memory of PJ*

Your most famous are dirty.

Seductive.

Easy.

Wafting, magnolia-scented,  
out of catacombs and thru  
cast-iron gates.

Your less famous we love.

A peacekeeper.

Quiet.

Resting on a bench  
in your underbelly  
with a book  
and a bottle.

The one we hope  
will come home.