



Photo by Helen Lottridge

Silence

silence broken
by
safe banal utterances
veiling
fragile wishes

easy to crack
twist and scorn
are denied

reflection
brings tears
needing
dismissal
of
all emotion
by

silence

Jan Robbins

Cruise Bar

I walk into that cruise bar and fall to the ground. My sensitive soul is impaled on a shard from one of the many shattered dreams and illusions cluttering the floor in that cruise bar.

I cry for help, my blood spews for all to see, but no one listens, no one cares. I am breaking the rules of the game in that cruise bar.

In my agony I can find no trivial and trite words to attract attention and die in that cruise bar.

Jesus, merciful God, please forgive me. St. Nicholas, loving patron, please understand. Mother, please remember that little boy who wandered the orange orchards with a thousand dreams, for his soul has found happiness there and not in that cruise bar.

Nick Myers

Limits

Mother, our possibilities are limitless
But our limits are real

My love for you/your love for me
Is possible without limits

Limits you place/I place
On the possibilities of each other's existence
On the terms of our acceptance of
Each other's/our own

Limits

Jan Robbins

One's fun to own, too

One's fun to own, one too.

The time being (being passing)
passing one passing once
sensed
can't be judged on its merits.
Merits one one?
Merits one two?

Habit demands
a singleness of purpose:
the purpose of singleness diffused in what
had previously seemed to be a perfectly still
vessel of water, a jar
a jar odor
a jar, a door
ajar, a door.

A jar, adore
a cusp, adore
a tryst, adore
a calm, adore
a door ajar, adore
a jar, a door
is, adore
is a door
ajar
to a door
one adores ajar
but out.

The hair on his chest bristled out like the grey
upturned roots of a dead plant. I eyed him,
winsome.
Want some?
Own some.
Once one won one too.
I eyed.
But meant, or canned, or butt, or but. Oh.
One
won.
Some sum, or
new mathematics.

Odd one out?
Won odd out?
Even, odd, or
odder even,
then, and now
the odd
two even
I odd
We even
Once one
Once won
Odd won out.
Two's fun to own, two's won.

W.C. McRae