

The Purple Scarf



1.

They were
 going to the ballet
 a recent work
by a favored
 choreographer,-
"it will be
 an exciting evening"
 they were told
"and be sure to come
 well in advance
 of the curtain
for a glass of wine
 and something to eat"

He had seen Lorraine
 first
at one of the
new bars on Third Street
She had

come in alone
and sat at a
 table by the door
glancing anxiously
expecting
her friend to arrive

After awhile
she just sat quietly
& watched the rain
 drizzle down the windows

He had not
 the courage
to approach her then
 a woman alone in a bar

He went on
reading his book
and
when he
 looked up
 she was gone
"Wasn't it
your own projection?"
 he thought to himself
 and then
 left the bar
walking

close to the store fronts
to avoid the rain

2.

the rain was
 beating down heavily
on the clear plastic awning
she stood beneath
and almost in chorus
 occasionally
stomp her boot heels
 and cough
the waiter
 came up to her
and asked
 if she wanted
 a table
that would be nice
 she said
Inside
 the music of the rain
 was just background
a Sunday morning
 only
 a few other customers
There was the
 occasional
 clink of glasses

and clatter of plates

she sat
at a table by the window
where the waiter
placed
a glass of ice water
on the white linen
table cloth
and took her order
The rain
was
driven at a slant
across
the front of the windows
and there was
a feeling of comfort
and of being safely enclosed

3.

Rusty performed on the bass
is all I knew
he had
large hands
that thumped
against the
thick adjoining strings
of the instrument he played

then comes Taylor."

I knew nothing
of women
at the time
They were as
personal to me
as trees in the park.

now Rusty,
he was a ladies' man
and
to be a friend
let me know
what was going on

I felt that I was now
intimate with this woman
who was
twenty yards away
sitting alone
and reading Baudelaire

after awhile
she became
impatient with my shyness
and left abruptly

she shook her head

so that her purple scarf
became entangled
with the breeze
and fell away

end

