

# Quill and Ink

## GHOST

Like a bad dream...  
Someone mentions your name.  
(Isn't it funny how letters grouped  
together  
Could once mean so much?)  
As I go about my mundane business  
called living,  
I walk around in a fog of  
Memories all day,  
Unable to shake your ghost...  
Sitting on my shoulder...  
Watching everything I do.

MOLLY HARTSELL

## UNTITLED

A meagre mortal  
by a meagre sea  
among meagre planets  
of a system  
in a meagre galaxy  
But in life  
knowing not nearly anything  
within a speck of substance  
Oh, my Universe  
how I rule over you

## TANUJ

It could only happen in America  
Sometime  
after the fact  
a queer frost of  
stygian hue  
crept into the renaissance  
and took its place  
silently between the legs  
of Mona Lisa

DAVID SOUTHWOOD-SMITH

## PRESENCE

scattered bones swinging in the air  
i've had many lives, many kingdoms  
many dreams,  
nothing matters  
  
now there's just you  
& me  
formless, breathless, dreamy lies  
i wake choking on a scream

let's say we hold each other,  
just for awhile

TODD SHIFFLET

## "SMILING IN ALL THE PICTURES"

Playing with guns and fire  
drinking and smoking  
attempting to deal with reality...

but you were smiling in all the pictures  
when you were young.

The less faded pictures show  
the grin dissipating into a  
sardonic smirk  
and you are further back in all the scenes  
disattached and not part of anyone or  
anything

No one takes the blame or responsibility  
for your unhappiness

So Welcome to the Real World,  
filled with solipsistic visions  
of people causing your misery.

Can't you imagine  
sunny days or peace on earth?

Ignorance is bliss.

But  
I try to remember  
that once  
you were smiling in all the pictures.

## FASHION

## UNTITLED

No need for striving  
words painted on my heart  
and soul  
we do have something in common  
No need for communication  
bathing in conversation  
"You Radiate Warmth"  
Comfort  
comfort  
curled fetal  
in my arms  
and i dream of your kisses

JON PARGAS

## UNTITLED

A suicide  
is a deliberate act  
caring about not being  
cared about  
What difference does it make?

He enjoys the moment  
while waiting for the death.

BONNIE BLACKBURN

## UNTITLED

I am laughing  
at your eyes  
which crinkle at the corners  
when you smile.

I am watching  
your hair as the sun  
glints gold against the crisp blue sky.

And I am falling  
faster than I should  
because of the crisp blue sky  
and your eyes.

BONNIE BLACKBURN

## UNTITLED

Uncle Joey kicked back in his rocking  
chair

"Uncle Joey" I ask him "Wouldn't life be  
a lot easier if everyone could win at one  
of those game shows? You know, like  
Wheel of Fortune, except that everyone  
gets a chance to spin the wheel."

"Everyone does get a chance to spin the  
wheel though, son. Both in real life and  
on TV. Think about it."

"Yeah Uncle Joey. But not everybody  
wins. If everyone won, we'd all be  
happy. After all, wouldn't you be happy  
if you could spin that wheel and win a  
zillion dollars?"

"I dunno, son. I'd be satisfied if I could  
spin for Vanna White.

She sure beats the hell out of your Aunt  
Fay."

DAVID SOUTHWOOD-SMITH

## FRIGHT NIGHT

Moon  
Full moon  
One eye watching my every move  
Trees twist and crack  
Under the Wizard's cold breath

The only noise now  
Nothing  
Loud nothing  
Trees crack again  
Sound shatters the frost from my mind

Once again  
I am safe now  
The only reminder of the Fright Night  
Full moon  
Lump in my pants

JOHN NULL

## NO DESSERT

No sugar tonight in my coffee  
No sugar tonight in my tea  
No sugar to stand beside me  
No sugar to run with me  
-THE GUESS WHO

She only asked me one question,  
but that one question was enough to blow  
my quiet little world into smithereens. My  
first urge when she asked me this alleged  
question was to puke. Yes indeed, just to  
puke my rotten, putrid guts out.

"Why", she asked me, her eyes  
burning with the tell-tale curiosity of a  
young girl about to lose her  
virginity,"Why do they call you The  
Alien?"

I immediately began to sweat.  
For this was the question that I myself had  
managed to avoid for the first 23 years of  
my life. I knew now that I could avoid it  
no longer. However, I managed to appear  
calm, cool, and collected.

If there's one thing that I've  
learned in life it's this: There's nothing  
wrong with sugar, it's the people who eat  
it.

Keeping this smug knowledge to myself, I  
laughed, "Where on earth did you hear  
that?". But it was a short, quick, awkward  
laugh and my lover didn't miss a trick.  
Suddenly I began to burst with convul-  
sive, hysterical, crazed laughter. The  
laughter of a mad-man.

"Alfred?"

"Alfred?"

"Alfred? Alfred? Alfred?"

Finally I could stand it no longer.

"What?!!" I shouted, the onions from my  
lunch still fresh on my breath. I saw how  
frightened my lover looked. I immediately  
calmed down. Besides, I knew if I didn't  
treat her kindly I wouldn't get any dessert.

No dessert.

No dessert.

No dessert.

No dessert.

No dessert.

No dessert. Ever again. And I'm sorry  
folks but I just couldn't handle that. No  
indeedy.

RUTH ECKLES

## UNTITLED

You are a Goddess  
and i am stone  
i scribble these few lines  
for Your Eyes alone  
it would have been sooner  
but they just wouldn't come  
for You are a Goddess  
and i am stone

JON PARGAS