

When You Talk To A Sorority Girl

by *stephen abbott*

when you talk to a sorority girl
you really gotta laugh

don't know why, but always
weird in their fake initial code
they play Pan's pipes

loud and clear though misty sophistication
may lay pain, may lay it out
of sight in Tom Collins or songs
you know it's there

cuddled up behind Greek words and all
merely makes it more tragic
as if halloween nymphy could erase God
Yes, you really gotta laugh
or wince

PERHAPS

While in a trance I dreamed a dream of death,
And nothing moved or spoke for all was dead;
I stood and saw and breathed a piercing breath
Which filled my soul and self with thoughts I dread.
Before me was nothingness, a soul;
I saw the men who were and now were not,
Who loved and laughed and ran from pit to pole,
Who counted what they were by what they got.
And bent in prayer there was a pious priest
Whose mind shut out all sins with thoughts devout,
His life, his good, and heaven now had ceased.
I saw all souls; a void all 'round about.
Each one had lived with sin and toil and strife,
But tell me who had lived a better life?

Ted Biggerstaff

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GREYHOUND



DISTILLATION

joe whittaker

One calm and early night,
a raindrop fell from pale clouds,
and glowed in the cold brilliance of twilight

a vaporous pearl in evening's seashell
capturing the reflections of endless waves:

the ferried wisdom of the night,
a fragile song of a passing dream,
dark illusions of a shadow's might,
and the cool breeze of a westwind's gleam

Yet, falling into the night,
a laden tar, among the dark silent waves,
made pure by glimpse of moon-ray,
became a single min of dew.



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WORK

He paused
And passed his great hand
Across salt-sweaty brow
Slurring the fine lines of dust
That settled there.
New grip gotten,
Upward swing and down
Again the pick
Broke earth
And stone.

w. b. napier



Epitaph

If, in this deep heart of mine
I cannot find something
to bring joy
then
Let them say of me
nothing

stephen abbott