

Instructions for a Summer Date

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Instructions for a Summer Date
Based upon "Inventory of Places Propitious for Love" by Angel
Gonzalez
by Lindsay Kennedy

Well, I'm stumped.
I think quiet rooms are good, however
you say the open air is more favorable.
On second thought, the green canopy made by
the trees in Central Park on a Saturday
or on those dirt paths
which bloom with coolness
are just as good.
The heavy heat leaves few choices:
not the crosswalk,
cars,
or crammed subways.
Corners inside
cavernous museums
are always useful
as long as there is no one looking.
However, we must be realistic: there
are always pushing crowds and
a voyeur ruins a moment completely.
And conventional standards
squelch embracing (except for
the ever-boring chaste kiss
on the cheek
—that won't do in this case—
emphasized by the modest and proper lover)
and **don't lean like that there are children present**
is reflected in every mother's angry gaze.
Where do we go then?
We cannot escape
the blatant
longing, the shame
from all sides,
the arrow-sharp looks
are most deadly of all.
You were right in saying they did this once,
they all felt this once,
But believe me, I know that I'm right too.
Maybe we should just give up our remote corners,
and sit in separate seats
as the train car clacks
and the lights flicker triumphantly
down the line, one after another, all the way home.