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Translator's Note

Jeffrey Dodd

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Dodd: Translator's Note

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Jeffrey Dodd

By now you will recognize
that I have taken some liberties
with the original and that when
I describe the third most
happening bar in town I mean
this one; and when I mention
those people who know what happens
in the back parking lot I mean
me, only me. This is true:

when I use the second person pronoun,
it will in most cases refer
to me. So, whether you or I buy
the next round, I will pay for it.

When the bartender's knife
glides through her index finger
while wedging limes, my digit
will burst with flame, and sunflakes
will dull my vision for the moment
it takes me to realize that you,
not I, are at the heart of all this.

Because of this I can only try
to stare you down when we meet
at Harold's Hardware Hut, where you
stop to buy new gardening gloves.
And, when you are dissecting your Cobb
salad in the local café, scribbling
notes in these margins, do not be

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surprised if I wander over to stop
short your blithe assumption
that I do not properly distinguish
between the two of us.