

Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 7 | Issue 2

Article 55

December 2008

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Recommended Citation

Gerard, Christian Anton (2008) "Digging a Hole," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 7: Iss. 2, Article 55.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol7/iss2/55>

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Gerard: Digging a Hole

DIGGING A HOLE

Christian Anton Gerard

Peggy, do you think—

*Yes, Jackson you're eating too much
bacon since you retired.*

Aw, c'mon. Look at it there.
You leave it lying out all day
pretty as a seventeen-year-old
girl. I have to eat it!

You have to eat seventeen-year-old girls?

No, but they're tempting—
see what I mean?

No.

Ok, look. I made the decision to marry you, and
in doing so, conceded my right and will to bone
seventeen-year-old girls, however, their
naiveté makes them oddly attractive—
follow?

No.

I'm not saying you're not attractive. Don't
take this wrong. Obviously I love you
and am highly attracted to you, but
you're ready. You were ready
when I met you and
ready when I married you.
You knew things about the world.

The bacon on that plate has set out
since this morning and is ready to eat.
It wasn't ready in the raw. In the butcher's wrap
that bacon didn't know shit, but it braved the world
in that pan and became ready.

But, remember how I growled a bit when
you opened the paper and the raw bacon
laid there all innocent and naive? I knew
that soon it would be ready for me.

*So you'd do a seventeen-year-old girl now
because you know one day she'll be ready?*

No Peggy. Listen to me.

I married you and I'd like to stay that way, but
my point is,
older men often find younger girls attractive
because older men know that younger girls grow
up to be ready. Most older men
don't actually do the younger girls. They
just appreciate their moment in life.

I'm not married to any food and so
now that I've finished breakfast
I don't feel guilty about an afternoon-delight
with bacon. I'm not cheating on
the eggs or grits. Both were great
in their time, but I'm moving on with bacon.

Jackson that's absurd.

*Our daughter's almost seventeen and
has seventeen-year-old friends. Should we
put up fliers with your picture and
make you go door to door?*

Aw for Christ's sake Peggy. I'm
an old man jabbering.

*You'd better be an old man
whose cock knows its place.*

You know what? I'll break up
with bacon for you. I will! We're
not even dating! I just—
You know I love bacon
after it's set out for a while!

*You're damn lucky Jackson. Damn lucky I'm
an understanding woman who loves your crazy,
but goddamn are you weird.*

Jackson reaches once more for the plate
and Peggy slaps his hand:

*No! You're done
for today. And tomorrow it's Mueslix
for you buckaroo. And don't give any tales
about how Mueslix is like me
'cause it keeps you healthy and regular.
I'm watching you,
you old coot. Now go change
clothes and take me to the movies.*

You think this type of fight
might mean make-up sex?

*Sure Jackson. Sure. Build a big pan
and we'll do it in the bacon grease.*