

# Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

---

Volume 9 | Issue 2

Article 31

---

January 2010

## You're a Pearl

Michael Jenkins

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

---

### Recommended Citation

Jenkins, Michael (2010) "You're a Pearl," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 9: Iss. 2, Article 31.  
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol9/iss2/31>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact [ORB@binghamton.edu](mailto:ORB@binghamton.edu).

## Jenkins: You're a Pearl

### YOU'RE A PEARL

Michael Jenkins

A pearl? No.  
A pearl's classy,  
the oyster's passion,  
a smooth moon  
made from pain.

Me, I'm abalone,  
plain rough mutton-eared  
mother of pearl,  
gaudy off-key cheap,  
my mother's daughter.

From the kitchen  
her oily voice  
was that sheen  
slickening the puddles  
after the rain.

Shane, her lover  
loser wanna-be surfer  
half her age,  
used my abalone  
treasures for ashtrays.

I turned thirteen,  
hint of shimmer.  
His eyes changed  
like the sea,  
blue to green.

But in moonlight  
they went black.  
I held tight

to the rock  
of his back.

I've never told  
anyone that—  
my inlaid secret  
I've kept hidden  
between the frets,

yet here's more  
girl victim gore  
if you're thinking  
I've got shine—  
I liked it.