

Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 11 | Issue 2

Article 10

January 2012

Would You

A. M. Brant

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

Recommended Citation

Brant, A. M. (2012) "Would You," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 11: Iss. 2, Article 10.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol11/iss2/10>

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.

Brant: Would You

WOULD YOU

**A. M.
BRANT**

I want to talk about blood art and infomercials,
folk music, and did you know that rabbits scream?
Did you read about the 250 million butterflies that froze
to death in Mexico? I want to talk about harmonicas
and lotus birth, the way your teeth fit into your mouth.
Did you read how the Army has admitted to dumping
64 million pounds of nerve and mustard agents into the sea,
how hundreds of dolphins washed ashore in Virginia, in
New Jersey, with burns on their bodies. Can we talk about
silkworms and hand-woven baskets—that sunlight like a bruise
on your face. Did you read about the philosopher in St. Louis
who wants to genetically alter factory-farmed animals' pain

Published by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The O

receptors so they won't feel—easy as switching off a light.

I want to talk about blood and sperm and food banks, cat's cradle
and grandfather clocks, salt lamps, the Smith crater. Do you know
about Mercury or the growth direction of cowlicks? I want to talk
about how mastectomies are performed, how to gather from the garden.
Have you heard about the rainforests, all those trees, the air? What
causes a pupil to dilate? Do you know that mass fish and bird die-offs
are a regular occurrence? Almost every day, somewhere. I'm sorry
about before, after you said what you said and I said nothing. What about
doulas, jellyfish, the whales, their songs, the blood in their brains—from
the Navy, from the sound of sonar underwater. How to float. How to hold
your breath. Suicide is an option. Sudden infant death syndrome exists, and
birthmarks, and so many lights stay on all night.