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Poetry Corner

January 2009, by John Kearns

Author of novels, short stories, plays, and poems, John Kearns grew up in Philadelphia where he was educated by the Jesuits. He and his wife, Mei, live with their son in New York City. John's most recent book of short stories, Dreams and Dull Realities, was published in 2007. His novel, Worlds, was a finalist in the 2002 New Century Writers' Awards. A new one-act play, "I Knew You'd Say That!" will be part of the Strawberry One-Act Festival in February. See www.therianttheatre.com for details.

Better This Way

It's better this way,

Young beauty:

Jet hair,

Fair face,

Silver figure

From black slacks sloping

To slender sweater and back.

It's better this way.

Around you

Candlestars shine

In the empty pints,

Glow in the cider,

Lose their light in murky lager.

It's better from a few stools away,

Submerged in the music

And chatter on all sides

To watch you tell your story

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And watch your lovely features' dance:

Eyes expanding brightly,

Cheeks rising and falling,

Teeth flashing and fading.

It's better not to hear

Your probable TV prattle,

Your sly mockery,

Or your scandals petty.

Better to sit and think

How Aquinas labored

On those 5 proofs

When all he needed


Was the view I have right now.

For more information about John Kearns and writing, visit www.KearnsCafe.com.

Submissions to the Poetry Corner may be emailed to: westview.editor@gmail.com

W.J. Davidson, a West Village resident for 19 years, edits the Poetry Corner.

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