Poems

Judith Rodriguez

Follow this and additional works at: https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi

Part of the Arts and Humanities Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at:https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol2/iss2/6

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au
Poems

Abstract
Four photographs

Tutorial
Snaps of the forties, hopefully taken by mothers mostly, waited for, pored over past hope. Here’s the three of them, out by the back stairs with the pedigreed cockers. Young rips. Well, maybe not him, plenty there though, all day covering paper with music. Kept him out of mischief. Fine boys … or this: a half-dozen sepia gum-trees, the door-open Chev, and picnic-rugs, Dad standing straight, sockless nine-year-old flirting a brooch, and the stolid small brother, mother-neat, in the hand-knitted jumpers of wartime. (Taught drill after lunch, and never to ride on running-boards.)

These other forties, dismay pinches. Who are these failures fronting up to stares? Which end of a camera are the half-frank young getting their fun now? What’s he scared of? What’s she hiding?
It's all there, like reading
the pained style
of the nib-taught dawn-of-time
Just War,
gone down in a slither
of automatic gears,
obsolescence and ball-points.
— They're still in there, wary, fighting.

TUTORIAL

Let's be frank: duplicity's fun.
Small outlay and moderate exertion.
It's addictive, mind you, with hidden expense when you expand operations.
At the end of a short course in duplicity you try the whopper — they all do — suddenly you're driving four-in-hand with three at least gone over the cliff.
Well, I ask you, what did you want, integrity or experience? Skill's one thing and success is another.
Learn from failures! that old chestnut — keep succeeding or you won't be around to be skilful. Alternatively you won't have anything left to be skilful about. Hang on to your seat, hang on to your investment, and with any hands left over hang on. (Let go of the rest when anything you grab answers.
Remember most of you are losers.
Winners can throw away the course-notes.)