

READING TOUR

If they're afraid  
to want you then  
they'll want to  
tell you the dreams,  
what they really  
wanted before the  
wife and two kids.  
Either way I'm an  
ok I won't say  
receptacle, that  
sounds messy and  
cold -- is container  
better -- like in  
the garden game when  
the man describes  
the perfect con  
tainer (interpreted  
as woman). I got in  
to the airport in  
Ohio late hadn't  
eaten since dawn.  
A pretty man on the  
plane told me he'd  
take me to dinner  
if I stayed said I  
looked like I'd like  
to swing. It was  
like the man calling  
when my face was in  
Rolling Stone so  
bizarre I couldn't  
hang up it was 10  
o'clock not even a  
sandwich since morning.  
This man had short  
scrubbed hair and  
his tenured belly was  
thinking was afraid  
I might be like  
my poems told  
me his wife and babies  
were sleeping I said  
starved something  
I rarely do and he  
allowed me one  
fast cup of coffee  
deposited me like  
student grades  
almost due in an  
apartment suite

with 50 thick towels  
plush carpet and dimmer  
switches in every  
room chandeliers every  
thing but soap  
toilet paper and in  
spite of the soy sauce  
pickles pepper and  
curry sauce there  
was no food. I washed  
my hair with plain  
water used the towels  
when I peed went thru  
every drawer and cupboard  
for something to use  
flat soda water mustard  
the Dayton News. After  
the reading tho every  
thing changed the man  
said he felt I could be  
his sister I was pulled  
to stay in his little  
room their damp children  
crawled on me. He said  
he wanted me to find  
a good man he wanted me  
to know how wild his  
life had been before  
the change of having  
a family the president  
of the school said he'd  
never met a Jewish woman  
like me he wanted me  
to know he liked me but  
wouldn't like the  
others, wanted me to  
see his poems that  
mine had let him into  
rooms he was talking  
as if we'd exchanged  
some secret keys I  
was thinking if I could  
just get to the airport  
that night before I tried  
to sleep on the cot in  
the cute pink room and  
washed my hair several  
times tho it didn't help.