

And my blood sings out for joy that for a while
It is free, unfettered as a butterfly
And the feeling
Is indescribably sweet and light.

But I can't stay up in the air
Like that all night.
Eventually my freedom car slows down.
I totter, limp from laughing, to the exit
And there to meet me is a well-known sight,
Bigger and stronger than before my flight.
After the neon excitement has subsided
And darkness has muffled the last enraptured squeals,
There it is, shambling softly at my heels.

-- Edith Ogutsch

Los Angeles, California

Reformer

Three little girls
were eating pomegranates in the park
...red smears giggled across their lips....
and the October sun fought with clouds.
A boy wrestled a joyous dog
on the dry brown grass.
An old woman cackled. The pigeons, the sparrows
jousted for positions in oases
granted by the gentleness of old men.
Children were edgy with euphoria.
The pale man explored the mysteries
Of his battered shopping bag,
furtively ... though with industry.
A toyfaced squirrel sat at the alert,
awaiting his dole.
Girls flowed by in bouffant pretties,
ponytails and dungarees
and silken clinging things
and they electrified the autumnness
with a poignance that caught the throat
of the pale man, lost in his shopping bag.
A quick, sharp, dark man slapped a child.
A mouth organ quavered.

Then, the world ended for most of them
with a roar and a thud and a splashing
and there were voices bawling madness
in every key
and there were red-stained tatters everywhere.
He didn't really WANT to throw the bomb,
he told them, but they had MADE him, oh
they had MADE him,
with their teasing
frivolities.

-- O. W. Crane

Pittsburgh, Pa.

S E A R C H

One professor went mad
And one jumped out a window
Maybe the world closed in on them.
Or maybe it drew back
While they reached out for it
With trembling wrists
And pulsing fingers
Seeking something
That would
That could
Stand

STILL

(reposefulness)
But
Then
When hope
Qu-ak-e-d aw-a-y
1 professor went (mad)
& 1 jumped
out the
win
do
w

-- Dorothy Nyren

Newton Highlands, Mass.