

Self-love did not compel her hands  
to hug her tiny breasts while crazy on the bed,  
but shame for what she was and I was not.

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### Explanation For Rejecting The Proposal Of A Potential Mistress

Look at my car:  
old wrappers, used matches, empty bottles  
rolling around in the thick dust;  
outside: tar, bird-shit, rust.  
And I really like the damned thing !

— Ron Offen

Wood Dale, Illinois

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### Here's One For Norbert's Wife

She looked mild enough when she stood  
Holding the baby, but on that  
"Night of all nights"  
When I had to sleep at the kitchen table  
Like a first grader with his head  
On his desk, she was a little more than angry.  
Of course we were drunk,  
But I really had nothing to do with that.  
But naturally, being single,  
I am the evil ogre who leads all  
Husbands down the primrose path  
Of scotch, gin, vodka and beer

— Oliver Haddo

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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### Recommended

Poets Of Today: A New American Anthology edited by  
Walter Lowenfels was released November 23, 1964 —  
published by International Publishers, 381 Park Ave.  
South, New York 16, N. Y. (cloth \$5, New World Paper-  
back \$1.95). "Vigor and passion."