

Soft in Bed

"Marriage? It's the best thing
for a man. You just remember
this, Boy: it will be
as soft as sixty
when you snuggle up in bed
as at sixteen." We were picking over beans
in the open chamber. "Just remember that,"
he said again, while down below
Aunt Anne's unseen presence
rattled pans in the sink.

Born Too Late to See Tahiti

(these once remote islands are now reached
easily by high speed air lines)

-- too late to see Tahiti.
Burn your gaudy red, green, blueprints
of Paul Gaugain's
escape to paradise.

(in 36 hours the tourist
may descend . . .)

You might as well go
to the Poconos.
It will be swell there to see
(higher than Niagara said the sign)
Digman's Falls,
a silver thread falling
the bluffs and sparse deciduous wood.

Can you see
the Scranton school girl
veiled in hair,
bathing golden in the mist,
drifting -- ? No! Even for this
it is too late. We are all born now
much too old: the water much too cold.

-- Robert M. Chute

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