

Should Auld Acquaintance

This friend of mine ... who's not a friend. One of those things that grew too fast: we met; he'd read a book that I had heard of; I'd seen a play he nearly bought two tickets for; our wives both browse in stores; his dog likes our two kids -- so now it's every other week at his place or at ours. And I am running out of books I've heard of which he's read, and for some reason this guy, who never gets unkind or pushy or anything, diminishes me.

I sometimes think no problem is so small it can't be walked away from -- which may be another way of saying that as soon as his wife hands that drink to me, I'm going to grin, pour it on his lap, grab my wife, and do a soft-shoe out the door.

Etc.

Funny,
the way my wife
keeps after me
for drinking beer,
saying it gives me
a pot belly,
reminding me
I won't look good
in a bathing suit,
and such
when the only reason
I drink the stuff
each night is because
I want it to help