

## AS SWEET AS THAT

When she was in a good mood because my dad had  
come home early for supper and told her  
her biscuits and honey tasted as good  
as his mother's or because he'd said  
he'd take us to see "Forever Amber"  
the movie she'd been wanting to see  
she would sing while we did dishes  
her washing me drying  
and she would whistle too and  
I'd get embarrassed.  
"Why don't you ever sing?" she'd ask me.  
And I'd answer "I don't know," and  
she'd tell me about being young like me, but  
a little older and how she used to meet my father  
at the town square after she'd done the dishes  
and all of them would sing and dance  
while my father and some of the others  
played the guitar and they'd do the  
jig and the shuffle and my father  
would lay down his guitar and do a tap dance careful  
not to get his white shoes and white trousers dirty  
and when the sun went down they'd all sit  
in the park and watch the fireflies  
flitting in the cottonwood trees. And  
I'd think to myself putting away  
the dinner plates  
how I'd never be able to sing as  
sweet as that.

-- Joan Smith

Fountain Valley, CA

## THE DRAMA

you are upset by your mother. you are afraid she is  
no longer a virgin. this worries you since she has  
never been out of your sight for more than a few  
moments. you are fashioning something for her which  
will put your heart at ease. it is shaped like a  
sparrow. you hope it will fit.