

## MONICA ON POETRY

"So you're a poet," she said,  
"well, I afraid I don't like poetry  
not all that modern stuff I mean  
all about the author's precious soul  
and the state of his emotions  
it's so self-obsessed and egotistical ..."

"I prefer a book like Jaws  
or better still the film. It riveted me  
to the seat -- that opening scene  
the girl swimming at midnight  
the white shark's dorsal fin  
slicing through the water ..."

"Or a book like the Story of O  
that really turned me on -- those whips  
and I love the stories of Roald Dahl  
especially his children's books  
James and the Giant Peach  
or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ..."

"Why don't you write something like that  
or be a mercenary and go off to Africa  
or some such place  
write about WAR. Make some bread,"  
she said.

-- David Tipton

Bradford, England

## BITING IRONY

A few blocks from where I live, there's a shop  
that deals exclusively in gold. A neatly-painted  
sign on the brick wall above the littered alley,  
proclaims, in block letters, that they'll pay cash  
for gold coins and jewelry, dental gold, and gold-  
plated items. Wouldn't it be too chic to have a  
necklace strung with the incisor caps of the poor?

-- Greg Boyd

Northridge CA