

while the wives are discovering  
that most of the available men  
have learned the hard way  
to be on their guards  
with the self-asserting woman.

#### THE LITTLE ATLAS OF MODERN ENGLISH LIT

d. h. lawrence was at the health spa  
working out on the weights  
alongside many other writers  
of all sexes, ages, sizes, and schools.

the other writers lifted their barbells  
over their heads. most lifted much more  
weight than d. h. lawrence.  
a few lifted less. (they were women.)

the other writers started doing their reps.  
some did a lot of reps. some did a few.  
some added weight. some subtracted weight.  
they worked out for different lengths of time  
and with different combinations of exercises,  
but eventually each decided that he or she  
had put in a good day's workout  
and went home.

not d. h. lawrence.

d. h. lawrence grasped his one little barbell,  
which did not objectively represent a lot of weight  
but which was quite a challenge to him,

and he lifted it over his head  
and he held it there.

and when all the other lifters  
had gone home for the day,

d. h. lawrence was still holding  
his barbell stiffly and achingly  
over his head

and he still is.

-- Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA