

the second husband gambles
he's around but not in the picture
her son
who fell by every Saturday for 6 straight years
was told nothing about the photo session
he just noticed it one Saturday
he's too artistic
no money there
out of the picture
it was only a question of finally having
the damn sense
to extricate himself completely
from a hostile environment

DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW SHE SWUNG IT

maybe it was her looks
or some unrelenting ability
to pin down celebrities
my sister & I both had bulletin boards
that were covered with autographs
Jerry Vale at the Frolics
ok
have some dinner & watch him sing
don't be ridiculous
after his first show
we're introduced
& I'm shaking his hand
this sort of thing was routine
for them
& for me
while it lasted

BORROW

do you know that one?
someone just wants to borrow
that's the word used
borrow really means keep
my mother bought me a guitar
not that I ever mastered it
really couldn't do much with it
one of my friends wanted to borrow it
haven't seen it since
but I can still look back
& remember
our little boxing session
at the high school gym
I opened up his gums
saw the blood

& kept hitting him
right there
it helps a little
when I think of him
& what had been my guitar

THE IMPROBABILITIES

Céline & Hemingway
dead on the same day
I wasn't there
certainly not in France in '61
nor in Idaho
just a nice clap-ridden teenager
Kerouac & Judy Garland
both born in 1922
both dead in 1969
it's a lame connection at best
the absurdity of politics
& other bedtime stories
that are taken
so fucking seriously

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

sure
you can scream at your kids
or anyone else in your family
but when you walk out that door
seal it up buddy
the machinery has been in place
for a long time
television has been selling out
since 1948
newspapers bring you the daily formula
of murder & sentiment
there is nowhere you can go
for realistic information
you're only free to choose
which brand is for you

PAMPLONA '67

I recently bought yet another biography
of Ernest Hemingway
the two female clerks
smirked at each other
it's true that he made an ass of himself