

my parents were never critical
of virgil and roseanne.
i thought it strange to marry
a plain woman after having had the glory
of a beautiful one, but my parents seemed
to understand.

i'm beginning to also.

MUMMY MASK, PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

such large gentle eyes
and modest mundane features.
you think: this woman would have
made a good wife.
you also think: certainly this is but
another aspect of the immortality
art can bestow: that your image, at
least, can remain lovable, more than
two thousand years after your death:
no wonder the wiser potentates not
only honored their artists but made sure
that they were well liked by them.

finally, though (and it's the stuff of
science fiction), you think that it
is an awful long trip back in
time to have to make just to find
a woman that you might be able to
live in harmony with.

—Gerald Locklin

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