June 2014

Life is Beautiful

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate/vol2/iss1/21
Driving down the road with a friend
The rain knocks on our windshield, sneering at us as it
touches down
Everyone knows, but they won’t say it
We pass a homeless man: haggard, gaunt and disgusting
We laugh and turn up the music

The $200 amps creating mellifluous hard-core rap
It shakes the mirrors; the bum is quivering in the rear view
Get a job
Get some nice clothes
Life is beautiful
And I think of Marx’ dialectical materialism or material
dialecticalism or whatever
Who gives a fuck; he was an asshole

Now the rain is racing down the rear window
The bigger drop winning, smiling
I put on my sunglasses, White Sharks, $119, turning the world
Green
My friend makes a joke about women and how
Incompetent they are
Then he rear ends Mr. Foreign Asshole in front of us
We get out and he starts flapping his tongue:
“Que tal, ¡chingada! ¡Qué lío! Mi coche, es neuvo…¡Retrasados!
Aye aye, mi hija, mi hija . . . “
“Hey motherfucker, tell your ee-hah to suck my dick,”
   my friend says
We
Crack
Up
I could have died
Laughing
He glares at us with his beady eyes and his tiny, foreign fingers
clench up into fists
“¿Hey, where’s your Tequila? Should we tell the cops about that
you drunk fuck?”
“¿Es una broma? ¿Este es lo que la gente aquí cree ser un chiste?
. . . <a pause> . . . Bueno, me voy entonces . . .”
He wrote down his information
Big Otto (that’s what we call him; he’s fat and his name is Otto)
exchanged his
Here’s what it said:

Abe Miento
1964 Civil Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

We smirked and departed
His car was pretty bad:
Defiled, polluted, corrupted
Paco’s was fine:
Pure, bright, beautiful
Big’s mom would cover it though, no problem
We slammed the doors and made the music pulse through our veins again
We were listening to Top Hat Eeveryth
It was good shit
We saw two guys holding hands so Big Otto, on instinct, rolled down his window
And chucked the beer he had just finished at one of their heads
The crimson juice percolated down into the red earth
Where the souls of so many have gone
We honked at an old bitch for walking too slow on the sidewalk
And I gave her the Finger
We pulled into Capital Foods and swaggered on in
I got a slurpee, Piña Colada, I loved the color of it
White
I went to get a six-pack, my Fake Identification Card smiling in my bulging wallet
And I slammed the cold, glass door on my finger by accident
It pulsed with hurt and pain
Crying out to me
Make
It
All
Stop
So I slammed it again to get it to shut up
And again and again
Over and over
The police walked in
“Is that your car?” they asked me
“No.”
“Come with me, Sir,” one of them said, pulling out his fancy breathalyzer
“It’s not my car!” I shouted as Big Otto, already at the door, smiled at me
and slipped out
Free
They handcuffed me and locked me away in a cage
In an overpopulated dungeon
Where I eventually died soon after