



1984

Waitress

Taina Mantey

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WAITRESS

They run around
like chickens recently decapitated.
They say, "please, thankyou,
can I help you?"
all with a smile on their faces.
They'll serve you,
slave for you
make things appetizing for you.
Put up with your grumpiness,
your crummy humor
and smart-ass remarks.
And think of all the weirdos!
They come in drunk
or stoned
or with plain old mental problems.
Get this out.
Get that out.
Order in.
Order up.
Order out.
And take another.
"How is every...."
"Care for more..."
"What kind of...."

All for the nickels and dimes
lying among the ashes
and an occasional faded dollar bill.

Taina Mantey