



1964

## Potentate

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### Recommended Citation

Fouch, Betty (1964) "Potentate," *Calliope*: Vol. 12 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol12/iss1/2>

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You've had your way with words:  
Wooing with ballpoint casualness  
Seraglioed verbs.

Turning, voluptuous, in your hand  
Nun nouns  
Till they discard the veil  
To pleasure you.

Sloe-eyed adjectives  
Decline to share  
With other parts of speech  
Your sensual flair.

Unrequited,  
Jealous adverbs  
Sulk  
When poppy phrases  
Burst beneath your pen.

You charm them all,  
Creating in your image  
Bold wistfulness in  
Lyrics semensweet.

For you  
Words arrange themselves  
Artfully . . .  
As odalisques  
Contrive themselves  
On pillows for their  
Lord.

Betty Fouch