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Habits

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Prairie Schooner, Volume 77, Number 1, Spring 2003, p. 60 (Article)

Published by University of Nebraska Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/psg.2003.0014>

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Habits

How arrogantly they carry us
into the pharmacy, the market,
the bank, even the darkened bedroom,

as though we were the wafers on
their tray, the pot of steaming tea,
the empty cups. And we accede

most days, so innocent are we
of their insidious intent,
their will to make us inmates of

ourselves, incarcerate our longings,
reduce our acts to replicas,
our words to parodies, our smiles

to imitations. What happiness
to send those sponsors on their way:
to taste, at last, the tangerine,

the bowl of cereal set before us,
the berries' ripe intelligence,
the cup of coffee not yet cold.