



9-15-2016

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Recommended Citation

Carr, Gladys Justin (2016) "at the greengrocer I stole a grape," *Westview*: Vol. 32 : Iss. 2 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol32/iss2/19>

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at the greengrocer I stole a grape

by Gladys Justin Carr

to test its sweetness
the produce police didn't come
so I went to the next aisle
to plunder the red cherries
@ 5.99 a pound wondered
about the baby carrots they don't cry all night
like my first child mysterious plantains
if you cook them right you get marvelous
crispy tostones avocados eat them before
you turn yellow for lack of the good
stuff inside their pebbly green olives won't
save Greece but maybe your life I hold
a melon in my hands large as my breasts
filled with milk asparagus will make
you pee desire will make you crazy
for dark chocolate iceberg lettuce gets
in your teeth that bite into passion
fruit try the granny apples for fun
and the mangoes to get closer to heaven
these raspberries look moldy over there's a flame
of flowers to quiet the heart I'll
take a bunch for the one who stole
mine it's another evening in New York
another lover's quarrel don't smoke
don't walk in the bikers lane
you'll pay for your crimes soon enough
it comes with the territory there's blood

in the streets & shots heard on the avenue of Americas
you have a right to seedless watermelons
but not to hustle the guy outside
selling bananas and shish kebab on a stick
sabrett dogs sauerkraut here's mustard
in your eye drink up the air is filled
with diesel & fartsmells of stalled traffic
the gods of licorice & hard liquor
are dancing tonight while the devil's
bringing down the curtain
don't forget to taste the sunset
it's ripe to the touch

