



11-15-2003

Mary LaFrance Learns Why Reverend Burden Missed Their Appointment

Robert Cooperman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

Recommended Citation

Cooperman, Robert (2003) "Mary LaFrance Learns Why Reverend Burden Missed Their Appointment," *Westview*: Vol. 23 : Iss. 1 , Article 33.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol23/iss1/33>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Mary LaFrance Learns Why Reverend Burden Missed Their Appointment

by Robert Cooperman

Men've abandoned me
in every gold-cholera town
sweating its fever in these mountains,
but he's the first to fall
down an abandoned mine shaft.
Maybe he was escaping the baby
he'd stuffed inside me,
once it hit him his wife had him
in a grizzly death hug.

Or maybe he had help into the world
he was always preaching on
as if he'd seen Satan's caverns
and was reporting to the rest of us.

After my monthlies stopped,
he'd crow about the life inside me
like it was a mountain of gold.
I wanted us to run off together.
The funds he'd hid would set us up
till he could gather
a new congregation to toss nuggets
like we was sacred idols,
but he always said Gold Creek
was his home, his tabernacle.

Maybe he was finally fetching
that loot for our getaway,
and fell. I'd search it out,
but I'm heavy as that melon
I ate once, juice dripping
down my cheeks and fingers.
Lucky I never spent the presents
he was always laying at my feet.
I could sell some, and find a squaw
who knows how to get rid of
unwanted gifts from men who leave.

