



6-15-2000

Relearning the Obvious

Glenda Zumwalt

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

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Zumwalt, Glenda (2000) "Relearning the Obvious," *Westview*: Vol. 19 : Iss. 2 , Article 21.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol19/iss2/21>

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.



Relearning the Obvious

by Glenda Zumwalt

Over and over, we relearn the obvious:
Life is not fair. Love hurts and so too
loneliness. You can't go home again
and you can't leave.

At two a. m. in some condo or farm house
the lights are on. A commonplace no doubt
like the man walking the floor, draining
a bottle of whiskey, asking as though
it had never been asked before
Why? and *How?* asking as though he
could be answered asking while the woman
in a room upstairs sighs and turns
in her sleep, while the cat purrs
by the fire, while the oak outside
the window flames in darkness and drops
another leaf, while the world spins
patterns as predictable as gravity
and snowflake, asking while the clouds
drift across the moon and the wolves howl,
asking while the angels sigh.

