



10-15-1995

## In Charge

Robert Cooperman

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Cooperman, Robert (1995) "In Charge," *Westview*: Vol. 15 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol15/iss1/14>

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](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).



# IN CHARGE

*by Robert Cooperman*

My mother plays gin  
with peregrine greed,  
pouncing on cards  
as if tamer birds.  
We laugh after the games  
she'll always win.

She used to play ping-pong  
with a fencer's lunging:  
her serves, ferocious bees  
that stung my nose  
before I could swing.

Her swing was fluid  
as a heavyweight champ,  
the killer instinct  
of a hungry polar bear.

I hated her lessons:  
that life's a game  
you can't win.  
I lose gladly now —  
whenever she calls,  
falcon swift — "Gin!"