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## Three by a Watcher

Ruth Ramsey

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# THREE BY A WATCHER

by *Ruth Ramsey*

## *MOCKINGBIRD MUSINGS*

### I

A mockingbird woke me early,  
Trilling borrowed songs in the elm tree  
    outside my window,  
Singing borrowed love songs to his mate  
In the soft light of false dawn.

### II

Beware, oh prowling cat,  
Of the fierce and dreaded mockingbird  
Who with raucous warning cries  
Will descend on you with beak and ter-  
rible talon  
And all the fury of a Kamikaze  
To make a mock of your slashing claws  
As you, the hunter, become the hunted  
Looking for a bolt-hole.

*continued on page 24*

# MEDITATIONS

## *STICKY WISDOM*

Hot, sweltering day—  
Flies hanging on the walls, the floor, the ceiling,  
me.  
Going to rain, they say.  
Wonder who told the flies?  
They're sticking to everything, as though glued,  
Too lazy to fly in the thick, heavy air.  
I wipe the sweat from my face, flicking the flies  
away,  
And scan the sun-bright sky  
Searching for confirmation of such fly knowledge.

## *COKE SHOW*

On bright summer mornings we'd line up  
In rows front of the Redland,  
Looking for cheap thrills.  
Clutching the Coke bottles that were  
Magic tickets to the world inside  
Where monochromed images marched across the  
screen  
And bedlam reigned in the regimented rows  
As the balcony-confined blacks took revenge  
By raining ice and spit on the whites below.  
And big boys relieved the smaller ones of  
drawing tickets.  
Expectantly we stood there in the bright  
morning light,  
Shifting from foot to foot in the press  
of forward-moving bodies—  
Eagerly thrusting our offerings to  
The keepers of the gate  
To the land of dreams.■

*RUTH RAMSEY*, who finished a B.A. in English Education degree at SOSU, is living in Bar Nunn, Wyoming; writing poetry; and watching wildlife.