

THE Quarter (4)



VOL.7, PART TWO

Diana Raab.

In Last Night's Dream

I was in a rowboat with a guy
who tore my hymen 55 years ago
and who I hadn't seen for decades.

We had a coffee to quickly catch up
about spouses, kids and music
which was his obsession since adolescence,

when we dated and about the time
he followed me to Europe
and told me one day we'd marry,
but first I had to learn physics.

Between kisses, he tutored me
In my childhood room—on my paisley bedspread,
as we spoke of Einstein's theories

under that wall to wall cork where I posted
all my memories like when we had
a bad LSD trip together,

but we were never in a boat
all those years
of my mad crush on him.

After years apart, and the day before my wedding,
I asked him for a quick fling,
but he turned me down



because he was dating someone else.
He was loyal like that—
half Indian half Jewish.

Sadly, he's died yesterday,
Found dead holding a glass of wine
in his uptown apartment,

and that was the day
my youth capsized,
as I rowed his spirit to land.



Diana Raab.

Laughter at Esalen

The lodge is filled
with as many laughs
as styles of underwear—
a colorful assortment of skimpy,
baggy, appealing, and sexy,
displayed as chuckles, cackles,
annoying, silly, fake, squeaky and leaky.

Like viruses, the contagion creeps
up on you, sending the weak-bladdered
souls dashing to the WC as I did
once in college when studying
too late into the night, slurping
black coffee between spontaneous
eruptions of endless laughter until
the entire dorm chimed in.

The good and bad of it is that we're all born
and die with the same laugh
expulsions of mirth pleasure and joy,
yet no matter how much
we might try to change it,
through surgery or exchange,
we cannot obliterate
this mark stamped upon us
ever since our very first push
into this world.

So here's the question—
what if you detest your laugh,
could you exchange it with a parent, loved one
or friend and if yes, how does such a process
begin, what authority would you call? A doctor?
A lawyer? A God? A spirit? A comedian?
A Policeman?
I only ask because I hate mine and yesterday
I could not stop laughing.



Weirder Still

Featuring:

Tohm Bakelas, Ugis Berzins,
JL Blair, Emma Bolden, Carl Boon,
Kateryna Bortsova, Anna Boughtwood,
J.H. Danville, Justine Defever,
Regina Dilgen, Jaden Fong, Timothy Fox,
Bert S. G., Libby Gerdes, Adelia Gregory,
Karin Kutlay, Easton Lane,
Robyne Richardson Lau, Melissa Lomax,
Emilie Lygren, Tom Morrison,
Julian Porter, Steev Punnan, Diana Raab,
Mykyta Ryzhykh, Luree Scott, Julia Smith,
Maxi Spiess, Joy Victory, Chloe Vigil,
Sara Wetmore, Ann Wuehler,
& Kevin Zepper



Find more from Quarter Press
at www.quarterpress.com
we're worth picking up