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## Battersea Park, London

George Hitchcock

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GEORGE HITCHCOCK

BATTERSEA PARK, LONDON

Cowled in madras, two silent women  
 Sit beside me on the bench.  
 Beyond the house of mirrors  
 The carrousel starts up, its horses  
 Tinted like upholstered rainbows.  
 The bingo dealer twirls his plastic keg,  
 Casts Cockney spells. The women cough.  
 Hindu, they're far from home, perhaps  
 Tubercular. The moon drips shadow.  
 A familiar hand falls on my wrist.  
 Now that ancient piping starts again:  
 Too late to move, against my will  
 I'll watch the captive animals,  
 Riders and ridden, rise and fall  
 On pillars of brass.

STEPHEN RODEFER

SUSAN STONE'S SHOES

I'd never seen another pair  
 like them. Neither had you.

*I'd rather put a quarter in the juke box  
 than do almost anything.*

Love is that drunkard  
 believes it, flinging himself  
 thru ten beers in two hours  
 and two others.

People  
 who need people  
 are the luckiest people  
 in the world.