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Susan Stone's Shoes

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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.

Peace man, peace woman.
 Let's live in pure affection
 and leave contention and wit
 to those who choose it.

I'm sittin in the morning sun,
 I'll be sittin when the evening comes.
Forever, forever, why not
 believe it.

Just put the money
 in the box
 and don't stop
 playing it.

Susan Stone's shoes. What
 am I telling you?

I think king James was beheaded,
 but queen Elizabeth lived a long long time.

STEPHEN RODEFER

THE ELECTRIFIED WORLD

What is it in us
 that will not let
 be done
 what cries out
 hopelessly in us
 to be done

here in this
 electrified world
 where in one vast cloud
 of vacant desire
 everybody is looking
 for everybody else.