

1968

## 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.