

1963

## Caryatid

Cynthia Ozick

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CYNTHIA OZICK

CARYATID

The temple that from her temple soars  
yields their dusts to a thousand wars.

Gun-redundant plunder  
with its cartridges of sneezes  
has shot asunder  
cornices and friezes.

Her chin-high stance complains  
a haughty long surprise  
that down these farmers' lanes  
skulls of sculptors fertilize.

Alone her gorgeous sect  
survives the architect.

Sinewy her maiden back  
strains beneath its rubbed pack  
as though ghosts weighed.

She does not dream her head  
is only lightened of its crown  
now that all of Greece is down.

She that raised Diana's hall  
cannot comprehend its fall:

rebel  
holding up a pebble.