

1939

Fragmentary

Maxene Pearce

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Recommended Citation

Pearce, Maxene. "Fragmentary." *New Mexico Quarterly* 9, 2 (1939). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol9/iss2/4>

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patra or the farmer's daughter. If sentimentalism is subdued and tears kept from the eyes, if excitement is suppressed by Puritan soberness, everyone succumbs to a joke. No state-fostered campaign for Power through Joy is necessary to keep an American good humored, or good natured either.

Until more generations have crossed the stage, the American will remain essentially a son of Nature rather than a daughter of Muse. He is a bustling bundle of energy, motivated largely by material considerations, but tempered with sentimentalism. He has latent qualities that will make possible the gradual rise to more spiritual levels. With the receding influence of the frontier and the increasing refinement of a settled society, he will delve more into books and less into the earth. Material objectives will become secondary and the fortunes of his neighbors will be more his concern.

Fragmentary

By MAXENE PEARCE

... little hurts and smaller petty aches
 think of each of them and laugh
 silly little things—but—yet
 we want to cry,
 to tiptoe and to pray—
 only being small enough
 only being quiet enough
 that no one would want to hurt us,
 but they do.
 Shut your eyes—tight, tight,
 think of nothing, nothing
 soft in the chair where you are safe.

Life won't let you ever be safe,
 incessantly driving you on—
 carefully open your eyes,
 methodically light a cigarette.