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The Costume: New and Selected Poems

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The Sign of the Mona Lisa Motel, Fallen at Camden

The signs are everywhere—the signs of love, the signs of fall. She lies, for instance, in a ditch near town, prostrate on the ground and decked out only in that revolutionary smile of hers: the sad sweet grin which bids a man to leave it all for her and enter into battle. I don’t need to spend a little time where Merrie Englande passed a losing day. I want to throw it all away—the day, the year, a lifetime—putting back that face and staying where two lips and eyes like those gaze out at me and speak in loving silence, or in words.

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