

*Creature Lover*

the drycleaner  
can't afford  
air conditioning

it reads  
96.5 degrees

I wish I hadn't looked  
because now it *feels* 96.5 degrees

a woman walks in  
with a little dog on her arm,  
how did this dog get  
so unlucky?

there is neck brace  
around the dog's neck

"His anal gland burst." the woman says

"His what?" I ask

"His anal glad, or anal *sac*,  
I forget which."

"*Anal sac.*" I say aloud to myself

"Poor baby, I found him in a pool of blood."  
she continues

and then feels like  
going into great detail  
about her dog's  
*burst anal sac*

"It wasn't inexpensive to fix,  
either! But they're worth it,  
they're like our children."

she leans down and kisses it  
on the snout

the little dog  
reaches out its tongue  
and kisses back-

a mad woman off the street  
comes in shouting  
about the power of Jesus Christ

*"I am the Archangel!"* she says  
*"You need the fear of God put into you!"*

she wears a black bandana around her head

*"I'm going to let you live, but remember I'm a Hell's Angel!"*

I agree to everything she says,  
trying to ease her out of the store  
ready to plunge a pair of scissors into her jugular  
if need be

you must never underestimate  
the unpredictability of  
a crazy person-

where do these people come from?  
certainly not from the  
same place as me ,  
couldn't be

I am nothing like  
*them*

they are odd creatures  
that must be watched  
from afar

they even *look* odd,  
walking along on two  
legs

arms hanging loosely

swollen elbows  
and sunken in eyes

oversized heads  
bobbing back and forth  
as they step

like some strange hybrid bird  
that's been skinned

ugly creatures  
when you really *look*  
at them

but then  
I contradict myself  
because  
the right kind of woman  
can take the wind  
out of me  
the same way a punch  
to the gut can

their curves,  
their legs,  
Jesus god  
their legs

real beauty

I suppose  
it makes me  
a creature lover

for out of every million *people*  
there is one that  
champions my heart

and they alone  
keep the whole damn species  
from falling from  
grace