

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 23  
Number 1 *Disco*.

Article 16

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Fall 12-1-2002

## About Quebec

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### Recommended Citation

Armbruster, Barbara (2002) "About Quebec," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 23 : No. 1 , Article 16.  
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol23/iss1/16>

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# About Quebec

*by Barbara Armbruster*

Illness has made a mockery  
of your fine-boned face.  
You pee in my presence,  
needing my help with the faded  
shapeless gown and the tangled  
lines that trail  
down your chest  
like ropes of pearls.

I remember  
country club dances, shimmying  
little Black Dresses up our silky hips  
to squat in discrete silence,  
smoking in the girls' room,  
patting the lacquered layers of our hair,  
tingling with cocktails and compliments.

You never fail to tell the joke  
about Quebec when my mock-French  
confounded all the waiters.

You seem to disremember parts  
about the train-trip when I stared  
out the window, my teary face  
a mirror of the rain.

We start to plan another trip-Alaska.  
Like any storyteller, I choose my words with care  
and some of what I say is truthful  
and some the way I'm wanting it to be.