In the Fullness of Early Aging

Maureen Tolman Flannery
College of DuPage

Follow this and additional works at: http://dc.cod.edu/plr

Recommended Citation

This Selection is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at DigitalCommons@COD. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prairie Light Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@COD. For more information, please contact koteles@cod.edu.
In the Fullness of Early Aging

Nearly midnight—when Phil Ochs will sing about all the things he won’t be able to do when he’s gone so, he guesses, he’ll have to do them while he’s here.

But he’s no longer here so irony buzzes, a winter housefly, through the pith of his lyric. We cherish these untangled days when loving well is all that’s required. This evening, fresh from storefront theatre, we are fired up by theatrical innovation--babies raining from the sky, a wordy, impertinent fetus curious about the world he will enter. Still discussing the play, we heat up the clam chowder sit at the butcher-block table as if at a seaside crab-shack and turn on the radio for the last hour of the Midnight Special— our Saturday night folk ritual. We talk casually of when one of us will stride ahead into Unknowing and which of us is best equipped to cope with loneliness, as though we might stave off mortality by naming it, by weekly references to its caprice as we blend our voices with the long-dead folk singer celebrating the tenuous blessings of a fragile hold on his guitar and rhythms of breath and pulse.

Maureen Tolman Flannery