

# The Prairie Light Review

---

Volume 21  
Number 1 *Visions & Verse*

Article 30

---

Fall 12-1-2000

## The Joker

Richard Mattas  
*College of DuPage*

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Mattas, Richard (2000) "The Joker," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 21 : No. 1 , Article 30.  
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol21/iss1/30>

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](mailto:koteles@cod.edu).

# The Joker

*Richard Mattas*

It wasn't supposed to work out this way.  
My destiny was writ in the stars.  
The steps in my ascension were planned long before today,  
And my path was broad and far.

I could barely walk when my schools were decided.  
To my nose the grindstone was put,  
By age three a tutor was provided,  
And by age four I knew about square-roots.

And so it went from grade school through college.  
My chores included the proper activities and sports  
Besides the acquisition of knowledge.  
I was also a wiz on the courts.

The purpose of all this was to enter a suitable vocation  
Making my parents proud.  
I would marry someone of equal station  
And our children the tape would be rewound.

But along the way the joker strayed.  
From that day everything was to change.  
I should have been dismayed  
With every right to complain.

Except that a life lesson was given  
I never learned in school.  
For it is not logic or plans that lead to heaven  
But it is the joker who rules.