

Fall 12-1-1997

The Relationship

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Recommended Citation

Stewart, Roberta Carrie (1997) "The Relationship," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 18 : No. 1 , Article 25.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol18/iss1/25>

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THE RELATIONSHIP

He flies to me

on his own terms
withholding favors
as he sees fit.

Aloof, alone, ignorant

of my friendly advances,
he plays with my attentions,
leaving on a whim.

How I would beseech:

come, spend some time
but unanswered, my words
fall on a void.

He searches vainly his mirror

for his own companion
needing only that
to know himself.

Pretender, this one,

he needs nothing
sufficient unto his being
but I know better.

The world is too big:

rather languish
than stretch wing
and soar from shelter.

Caged in security

he finds refuge
while I, the jailor, bring
sustenance and clean pan.

Occasional advances

bring quick retreat
to comfortable familiarity
of confinement.

When once he advances

it is of his choosing
at times inconvenient
for brief interlude.

It only takes

small slight:
the turn of my head another way
and he's off.

Leaving only the

excrement of his visit
as evidence
that he was here.

Bird, Man, or Muse

All or one
You choose,
as you wish...

— *Roberta Carrie Stewart*