Interlude, Union Station

Pat Brown
College of DuPage

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

Recommended Citation
Brown, Pat (1989) "Interlude, Union Station," The Prairie Light Review: Vol. 8 : No. 2 , Article 43.
Available at: https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol8/iss2/43

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 orenick@cod.edu.
INTERLUDE, UNION STATION

Pat Brown

WASHROOMS FOR RAILROAD PATRONS ONLY
TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED
AMTRAK POLICE

Are they uniformed?,
I wondered, glancing
furtively over my shoulder,
or plainclothes, perhaps,
so as not to spook transgressors? —
I tried hard not to stare
at a seedy old boy
in a blue poplin jacket
two urinals down to the left.

Would they storm the place
in a lightning raid?
I imagined rough hands
on my arms from behind —
not even a chance to tuck myself in? —
slamming me into that filmy wall,
demanding my ticket — Honest,
I was just on my way to the
Burlington window! — then
stumbling me out to the concourse &
pitching me into a stream
of wall-eyed commuters
where — dancing for balance,
still unzipped — I'd hear
a youngster's voice shrill
"Mommy, look! That man was
being bad in the bathroom!"
above the soft chuckling
of dutiful Amtrak Police
melting in the crowd.