

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

March 2, 2007

Friday Poem

Filed under: [poetry](#) — alecsothblog @ 2:12 am

I've always envied [Eric Ziegenhagen](#). He and I went to high school together. During our senior year he had one of his plays produced off-Broadway. He's since gone on to be a brilliant writer, director and musician. But what really gets me about Eric is his restraint. He's never been showy. Everything he's done has been built on simplicity, honesty, humor and surprise. So it made sense when I heard that Eric had won a Haiku contest from the Japanese consulate. What better medium for his understated aesthetic:

Winter dinner

At the Olive Garden

Three brothers, three cars.

Your yellow sundress,

Taramisu

On your lips.

Live alone,

Watch the traffic.

Live together,

Watch T.V.

My lover's cardigan

Still smoky

From a bar last year.

Like a loon,

My brother swam down suddenly

And reappeared far away.

Sunday newspaper

Thicker

Than two heavy blankets.

Home Depot

In a blizzard

I miss my grandfather.

Boots piled in the doorway

My childhood friends

Visiting the city.

I drank beer

You, hot cider,

The night John Kerry lost.

This is Division.

This is Grand.

This is Chicago.

For more about Eric, go [here](#) and [here](#)

4 Comments

1. I love it.
It's Tiramisu'.
To pick nits.

Comment by [ford](#) — March 2, 2007 @ [9:17 am](#)

2. Dear sun, did you know
Your yellow glow finds even me
Behind dark curtains?

Comment by [Richard](#) — March 2, 2007 @ [5:41 pm](#)

3. I thought we where both jealous of Andrea, and aren't all the people who went to your high school super succesful genius types?

Comment by [doug mcgoldrick](#) — March 2, 2007 @ [10:06 pm](#)

4. Annie and Eric are quite a pair. What I'd give to go back and time and have another week in school with those guys (Atom too).

Comment by [Alec Soth](#) — March 2, 2007 @ [10:19 pm](#)