

Mark Young

## **But the petunias look nice**

Miss Petunia, a fishmonger in the most malodorous quarter of 18th-century Paris, could sniff out the subtlest smells, distinguishing that emitted by an obese ghost residing in one of the bathrooms in Luigi's Mansion from that of rodent or maggot or peach.

She would often say "It must be awful to marry one of those nubile cuties knowing that there is a time bomb ticking away in her that will at some unknown date make her bloat out into something huge & grotesque, presumably all of a sudden & without much notice."

She preferred elegant petunia & lesbian flower designs in royal blue, where the plants grew to grotesque proportions, then folded up & died before setting seeds.

When she peered into the rearview—oh the grotesque faces! Each petunia had drawn up on its stem & each was turned to face her. A small LED floodlight with rotating colors shone on them & it made the somewhat grotesque things even stranger—now a blue face, then red, & green, & yellow, & . . . & magenta. It always kept coming back to magenta.

Now, a word from our sponsor. For those rare occurrences where you may need petunias last minute, XXX Cash Loan can work to transfer urgent funds in as little as two hours.

a / kaleidoscope gifted / with consciousness

The phrase was *du lait*. It became *boire du lait* in the mid-19th century. This re-

treat of art from everyday life became a birthmark that is of a light-brown

color. Once in Paris, Charles Baudelaire's *flâneur* turned into a citizen of the world.

she reads clocks in longhand

She did everything she could  
to deny the truth, likened it  
to learning cursive. Then

other things aligned, & she  
accepted her son was destined  
to become her daughter.

**a small Fibonacci sequence**

oneness

oneness

twyer threnody

fixature ekka thorpe

tylopod throttle finnan embrocatation ideology

variety transubstantiation umlaut periwig hyalite beard outback creamery

A line from John Cage

## Sketches of Asparagus

The  
back cover  
of *Live at  
Montreux*  
has an Annie  
Liebowitz

photo of  
Miles with  
his fingers  
pursed together  
like stalks  
of asparagus.

## Muddle Earth

bright purple ajuga blooming after rain  
17 years old & already has a tattoo

it says "Just Breathe"  
he is especially fond of Botticelli

tattooed historical figures  
debating tobacco addiction

unless we radically change current ideas  
about the German popular film

a war with Syria will follow  
motives & theories abound on this

it's still a fun game either way  
deserves to be on every shelf