

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 6 | Number 2

Article 20

Spring 5-1-1987

Male Eyes

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College of DuPage

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Recommended Citation

Scoville, Jane (1987) "Male Eyes," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 6 : No. 2 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol6/iss2/20>

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MALE EYES

Jane Scoville

Male eyes,
Unembarrassed, bold,
Staring, touching, measuring
Imagining.
Feeling intensity,
I flash small smiles
In other directions,
Pretending unconcern,
Unawareness,
Innocence.

Later,
Beside a teenage daughter,
Eyes flash past,
Fix on her
Appraising, staring, touching,
Imagining.
She sees it, I shriek,
Seeing she's sending
Smiles in circles
Leaving me
Outside —
Mother, woman,
Wiser,
Valuable.

Later,
My mother stiffens
To warn of becoming
Invisible —
As girl becomes
Woman becomes
Grandmother.
Nothing . . .
In their eyes.