

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 6 | Number 1

Article 39

Fall 12-1-1986

Heroics

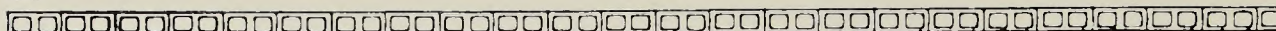
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Recommended Citation

Scoville, Jane (1986) "Heroics," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 6 : No. 1 , Article 39.
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol6/iss1/39>

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Heroics

Jane Scoville

He hovers over you like some god;
 Tanned chest bared this summer day,
 Slim hips slightly swaying,
 Muscular thighs twitching.

Your frail body is perched beneath a tree;
 Knitted cap hiding hairless head,
 Dark glasses shielding sunken eyes,
 Mysterious stranger who was once familiar friend.

He flashes a smile above us both,
 Offers to bring you picnic food,
 And reels away in a swirl of light,
 Leaving us in shadow, even darker.

Neighbors meet in whispered clutches;
 Wondering why you've dared to darken their day,
 They skirt your canvas chair and drift away
 To drain their drinks, to resume their games.

But I know why your cancer can't yet cancel you;
 I've heard your glorious tales of that blond Adonis,
 That shining football star — Naperville's hero,
 Not separate yet
 from the dying mother
 who bore him.

Oh, you do hang on —
 Ah, heroically.