

Masthead Logo

The Iowa Review

Volume 37
Issue 2 *Fall*

Article 40

2007

Notes toward a Bedtime Story

Ronald Simon Rubin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rubin, Ronald Simon. "Notes toward a Bedtime Story." *The Iowa Review* 37.2 (2007): 131-132. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6365>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Notes Toward a Bedtime Story

Dishes layered with grease
Piled in the kitchen sink.

The radiator busted—
We kept the windows shut,
Turned on the kitchen stove
To heat the room.

Pubic lice on the table.
Saved them in a bottle
Where they made a little hill.
Kept it on the windowsill.

The toilet didn't work—
Clogged with paper, dirt.

Went out to the yard.
Shitting was hard
In the frozen mud and snow,
The wind-chill 10 below.

One wall day-glo orange
For trips to unknown lands.
The others day-glo purple
Spotted with dried spittle.

Wrote passionate poems to Mabel
(the lice on the kitchen table).
She seemed to understand.
Was fucked by Everyman.

Survived on Camels and Vodka
And a brew of coffee that was blah.
I was happy, then, I guess
Until the lights of an ambulance.

Six weeks of treatment. I am well
Thanks to some little amber pills
That I keep in a separate bottle
On the windowsill.