Monkey On My Back

Brice M. Smith

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/italics

Recommended Citation

Available at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/italics/vol2001/iss1/10

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Italics by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.
Monkey On My Back  

BRICE M. SMITH

The monkey is there on my back  
Long before I was aware,  
And while he plays, I distract.  
He amuses me,  
Confuses me,  
Placates me,  
And frustrates me.  
Laughing while I miss the sands of knowledge running through my fingers.

Caught only in my guilt,  
I beg him to be good but it only  
Slows the process.  
It is my destiny, constant loss  
And at what cost?  
My early payment.  
My lonely heart.  
My early death.

He takes my last breath.  
Selfish and uncontrolled  
A disorganized brain and a lounging heart  
I long for rest.

The Elves' Song

KYLE CONNER

With the musty and the cool elm  
and the cool clover  
the wood greeted strength.

Stately elephant  
of this season  
Limbs reaching  
Like a teardrop  
the red tear lets and rides the wave.

There, covering  
protected near a  
it lay slowly losing.

As the waxing sun  
is not alone.  
Like the breaking gold, auburn and rustle,  
as the elves scatter and looks.

There in this moon  
an owl alights on  
and looks,  
Locked in an em  
I know,  
he knows,  
that this is a my  
He huddles again  
as I turn and press  
Onward away from  
and through the