

1-1-1989

Born Henry

Mindy Taylor

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr>

Recommended Citation

Taylor, Mindy (1989) "Born Henry," *Grand Valley Review*: Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 16.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol5/iss1/16>

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

Born Henry

MINDY TAYLOR

I

Born jaundiced, born with a purple lake
on your temple, the map of your past,
born Henry, surrounded by a blue you'll remember
deeper than where you'll remember —
you'll see the sea, the sky, the blue hosiery
hanging on the line
and each will stir your pulse.

You'll image the haze is recanted
from some other life where you woke in a blue room
and went out mornings to milk, to weed,
to watch your mother through the window
as she rolled dough out on the counter.

II

You'll think that that life, idyllic, makes this life
of prevarications, of preambles, or pre-engagement
contracts, of wills and distilleries and rattling
dishes and lawns drying up in the summer
to a yellow not unlike yours at birth
seem, what is it, lawful, willful, not quite kind.

III

As you lie in bed with your wife, your legs hugging
her buttocks, you shut your eyes so tightly
you see blue. Henry, blue is too easy.
It is someone else's life
and it is as blue as your own. Your life is here,
now, in this bed, with this woman.
The shine-flex of her muscle-curve, her olive skin,
the white scar on her jawbone are enough
to contend with.
They are the lights in the village
that is your own.