

1970

## On Stopping at a Diner

Shirley Aslaxson  
*Grand Valley State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus>

---

### Recommended Citation

Aslaxson, Shirley (1970) "On Stopping at a Diner," *Amaranthus*: Vol. 1970: Iss. 1, Article 14.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus/vol1970/iss1/14>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Amaranthus by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).

# ON STOPPING AT A DINER

Shirley Aslaxson

Hamburger smells pollute the air,  
Encouraging appetites to demand satisfaction.  
Inside, a high school dropout brings water and menu.  
She smiles, and hopes you'll leave a tip.

Watching the cheap, sweaty cooks prepare  
Your cheeseburg deluxe, you suspect you'll find  
A gray, greasy hair hidden in your order.

Soon, sustenance is plopped before you.  
Methodically, the food is consumed, and smugly,  
You recognize your superiority  
Over old cooks and young waitresses.  
Still savoring your importance, you leave,  
Deliberately placing a quarter  
In a small pool of water near your plate.

Outside, through a window, you watch  
As she slips the quarter into her pocket.  
She sees you watching, and impulsively, you wave.  
She only looks and then, turns her back.

Mouthing curses accentuated by hiccups,  
You leave, and regret having stopped.