



MacQueen's Quinterly: Knock-your-socks-off Art and Literature

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[Cherita + Prose Poem]
Cheribun: 231 words

#Still Compiling

```
def count_funerals(losses):
```

```
    """I sink into my usual seat, a plush leather easy chair twice  
    upholstered since the '90s. We start with the Serenity Prayer and  
    a recitation of the steps like the Gregorian monks before us. (Monastic  
    and celibate, my sponsor reminds me.) A new girl reads tonight—  
    pretty with trimmed taupe bangs and subtle eyeshadow framing her  
    pink cloud face. Our speaker says what they all do (more or less) while  
    the Wall Street suit manning the coffee bar slips out a dry erase cloth  
    and removes a name from the anniversary board. We link hands and  
    recite Sunday School prayers with the fervor of a new convert, but  
    the Big Book never mentions Roxy or Narcan."""
```

```
if losses==1:
```

```
    #For P.
```

```
    print("""nimble fingers
```

```
        weave lilies  
        in my childish braids
```

```
        and blow  
        one last kiss  
        on yesterday's breeze""")
```

```
if losses==2:
    #For M.
    print("""the Miami bass
           matches his cadence
           as he croons

           Joplin, Winehouse
           (never Cobain)

           and notes he's 27, too""")
```

```
if losses==3:
    #For T.
    print("""he quotes Hamlet

           and claims
           the extra 'd' in his name
           is theatrical

           and waltzes away
           under Calle Ocho stars""")
```

```
if losses>3:
    #For the others lost
    print("""after-meeting
           pizza

           we chatter
           and laugh
           and then stare

           at the empty chair""")
```

```
for i in range(1, losses+1):
    print(i)
```

```
count_funerals(1200000) #Add 217 per day
```