

THE MOTORCYCLISTS

My cuticles are a mess. Oh honey, by the way,
did you like my new negligee? It's a replica
of one Kim Novak wore in some movie or other.
I wish I had a foot-long chili dog right now.
Do you like fireworks, I mean not just on the 4th
of July, but fireworks any time? There are people
like that, you know. They're like people who like
orchestra music, listen to it any time of the day.
Lopsided people, that's what my father calls them.
Me, I'm easy to please. I like ping-pong and bobcats,
shatterproof drinking glasses, the smell of kerosene,
the crunch of carrots. I like caterpillars and
whirlpools, too. What I hate most is being the first
one at the scene of a bad accident.

Do I smell like garlic? Are we still in Kansas?
I once had a chiropractor make a pass at me,
did I ever tell you that? He said that your spine
is happiest when you're snuggling. Sounds kind
of sweet now when I tell you, but he was a creep.
Do you know that I have never understood what they meant
by "grassy knoll." It sounds so idyllic, a place to go
to dream your life away, not kill somebody. They
should have called it something like "the grudging notch."
But I guess that's life. What is it they always say?
"It's always the sweetest ones that break your heart."
You getting hungry yet, hon? I am. When I was seven
I sat in our field and ate an entire eggplant
right off the vine. Dad loves to tell that story,

but I still can't eat eggplant. He says I'll be the first
woman President, it'd be a waste since I talk so much.
Which do you think the fixtures are in the bathroom
at the White House, gold or brass? It's be okay with me

if they were just brass. Honey, can we stop soon?
I really hate to say it but I need a lady's room.

"The Motorcyclists" is Tate in drag, delivering an off-the-cuff catalog of likes and dislikes from the passenger seat that ping-pongs the human experience. Our monologuer speculates about a better world, but her stand-up comedian stance never seeks retribution. "But I guess that's life." She dreams huge, but always within the world as it is. She wants to be President, but is chill with brass fixtures in the White House bathroom. In this way, she feels like a working class sage of improvisation. When the world deals you a shitty hand, you can still "eat an entire eggplant right off the vine.

- Patty Gone