

# The Night Agnes Caught Fire

*Cathy Comenas*

After work at the bra factory  
and a blood thick steak  
Agnes and Mari, twins from birth  
sat on yellow vinyl recliners  
in front of a black and white Merv Griffin

Agnes smoked a Marlboro  
complained about being thirty,  
the daisies she gave her supervisor Alice  
wilting two days later  
and Elke Sommers' husband  
not letting Elke race the Italian Grand Prix  
She talked about how Mari don't need no man  
to take care of her  
Agnes would do that for her

Mari thought about dying her hair blonde  
losing weight, how she wished she were married  
but couldn't leave Agnes all alone  
and the two Mars bars in the refrigerator

During a commercial break  
Agnes put on her new pajamas  
while Mari retrieved the Mars bars

The candy anchored in her stomach  
Agnes lit a Marlboro  
but this time her pajamas seemed to explode  
as she jumped up from a burning recliner  
she screamed that she was on fire  
ran out the front door into the street  
Mari behind her yelling for help  
she couldn't put her sister out