

1967

## A Proposal

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## **Cover Page Footnote**

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*When I knew your beauty I became confused  
and words were vulgar beside you*

— TO SUE

And if your parents like my parents  
we shall paddle down the river  
the grease skimmed Genessee  
with the wind against us  
then shall we drift idly to the ground  
and measure out time by  
complaining crackling autumn leaves  
lying there with the smell of dirt  
mingling in our joyous embrace  
that we are human and exhault it  
and be subtly told to  
move on for that sort of thing  
pat the foolish dog accomplice and  
move on up the dusty path  
murmuring soft words of loving  
and not caring about propriety  
not being cynical  
but walking together into the night  
in concert with the swamp frogs  
without moon or stars  
mounting strength and courage dispelling fear  
we pledge in whispered glances  
to withhold oppusing strife —  
when the cool air finally rains  
we forget all those righteous faces  
in a windy chapel  
and command nature to our happy prayer  
together now

*tom hughes*