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The Laugh, the laugh...

R. Moore
St. John Fisher College

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The Laugh, the laugh...

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Across the small room is a desk with a dusty and unused oil lamp upon one of its leaves. Not unlike the cluttered appearance of the rest of the room, the desk holds a pile of typing paper, trinkets and assorted articles. Here we see a rearing china elephant; there—a silver lighter, a pair of field glasses, a revolver, a small mirror, strings, pencils, bottles, pins and orange peels. Then to the smoke encircled lamp and back to the mustached man wanders my piercing memory.

The man turns to his typewriter; my vision returns to its fleeting companions. Who was this man, this room, this rearing china elephant? My memory stopped neither to ask or answer this. Whence comes this picture—a movie, novel or play? The answer lies within me now, in the secluded limits of my mind. Whence comes the answer? Perhaps at some time yet to come I shall sit and ask myself, “Have I been here before?”

RICHARD OSTERMAN ’59

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The laugh, the laugh
The nervous laugh
That betrays the press
Of a kicked stomach
To hide
An anxious cry.

The lust, the lust
The lust
That must be discussed
That kicks
From the womb
Of both man and woman
A nervous laugh.

R. MOORE ’57