

2003

In Venice

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Recommended Citation

Rowland, Jodi (2003) "In Venice," *The Angle*: Vol. 2004: Iss. 2, Article 23.
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2004/iss2/23>

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Cover Page Footnote

Appeared in the issue: Volume 4, Issue 2, 2003.

MAGGIE CASSELLA

CRITICAL PAPER

“People, please keep your hands inside the tour bus, and children must stay in their seats!

Now watch closely folks, as the adolescent ape is stripped from his family. Look at those enormous muscles pulsating as they tie him down, his veins ready to explode. Notice the terror in his eyes. See how his fingers grip ever so tightly to the edge of the truck—

No ma’am, this country doesn’t believe in using sedatives or tranquilizers for the animals.

What’s that sir?

—A very good question.

The ape is being taken to a zoo where he will be trained with many other apes to do this silly dance in a yellow polka dot bikini which both kids and adults love to watch! It is a fantastic show!

Now over here, if you look to your left, is a very rare species of birds who. . . .”

JODI ROWLAND

IN VENICE

AFTER *A VIEW OF VENICE* BY WILLIAM JAMES

I hear the man in the gondola—
the one wearing the bright red hat—
calling to me, asking if I need a ride.
And I’m reminded
that I’ve never ridden in a taxi;
never even been to New York City.
But, here, in Venice,
I feel alive.
People chatting while they pass me
in every direction,
dogs barking and chasing one another,
boats moving freely
in the bright blue water,
the sun lighting buildings along the walkway,
the smell of freshness,
the cool breeze swaying by me,
and a man calling to me,
from his gondola,
do I need a ride?