

BERGE, Carol - Timepieces, Fault Publications, 33513 St.,
Union City, CA. 94587, 1977.

The poetry of Timepieces bubbles from exploitations and sensations of the outer world. Carol Berge's poetics are the experience provided in day to day situations. In the great majority of cases, Timepieces presents tales where the hero is a woman describing her feeling about any situation, and the way the writer develops this makes me think of the famous contemporary Brazilian writer, Clarice Lispector. Carol Berge uses a deep and incessant poetical effort to understand different aspects life has to manifest poetry. One might say Timepieces is a book written with the purpose of convincing the sensitive reader of literature about the reality of poetic manifestation as an integrant part of everyday life. Practical people might disagree with the idea of finding poetry in trivial situations, otherwise, the more creative would not.

The main character in "the suburban Housewife and Friends", is named Alice. She enjoys flirtations with her old boy-friends, organizes parties at home for strange people she never met before. Mac, Alice's husband does not interfere in her parties, doesn't even ask his own wife where the guests come from. "He always knew just as much as Alice wanted him to know."

An important item in Timepieces is the development of the idea of supremacy of the feminine will. In "Two women and one man", this idea of women's mystery and preponderance on male characters is very well brought about. Here the heroine recognizes that it is a difficult thing to be a woman, on the other hand, she has a mysterious strength which makes her fight for the possession of a man she describes as an "important part of her house at this very moment." She reduces her partner to the idea of a piece of furniture. The heroine continues and she says that she considers her "prey" as a "beautiful animal which could become more so."

Carol Berge apparently defends, in her stories, the idea

of a very superior force and fascination which only women would have.

Sometimes her stories seem to be autobiographical to a certain extent. At times, we realize that when the writer feels tired of restrictive conditions of the external world, she does not give up and still finds reasons to go on elaborating her poetry. Carol Berge absorbs the duality of monotony vs new poetical discoveries which the external world gives. Such duality might amaze and even irritate some staid establishment-wise people.

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