
Robert Phillips

ISSUE 162, SUMMER 2002

The miracle began with a miracle.
I was sitting in my gold-trimmed chariot
(well, not exactly my chariot—like all
my accoutrements, it belongs to her—
Candace, Queen of all the Ethiopians.
But since she put me in charge of her treasure,
I have the opportunity to live high.
Beauty has its privileges, and I don't mean
Candace. I'm here to tell you: That girl
Wasn't around when they passed out looks).
There I was, biding my time in the chariot,
near Jerusalem where I'd gone to worship.
I'd just passed Gaza, a real cultural desert.
I was studying Isaiah the Prophet
when suddenly this white man was translated—
there's absolutely no other word for it—
he literally was *translated* from wherever
to right next to me. It was the damndest thing!
He just stood there, ahuffing and apuffing.
Then he says with the greatest impertinence.

"Do you understand that book you're reading?"
His meaning was undeniable: the fact
that I'm black must have implied I'm illiterate,
or ignorant at best, despite my purple
silk robe and heavily gilded chariot.
I said, "This Isaiah is a heavy dude.
Perhaps you can shed some light on this passage?"

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;
and like a lamb dumb before her shearer,
so opened he not his mouth. ...* "So who's the he?"

Want to keep reading?
Subscribe and save nearly 40%.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Already a subscriber? Sign in below.

Email address

Password

SIGN IN

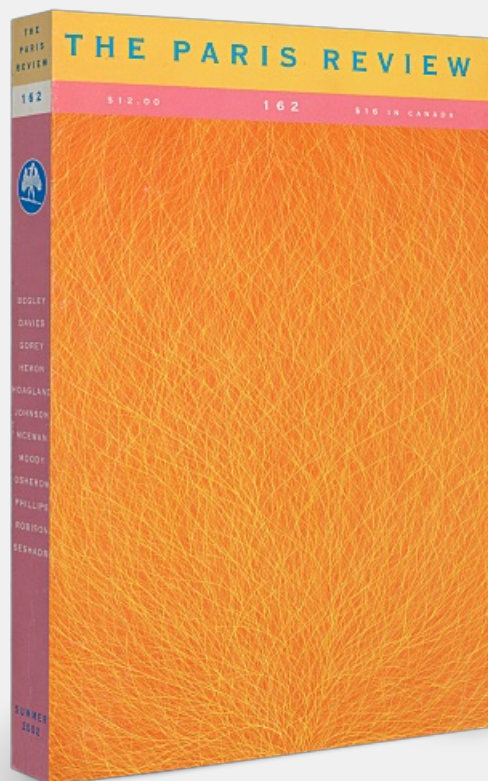
Remember me

[Link your subscription](#)

[Forgot password?](#)



MORE FROM ISSUE 162, SUMMER 2002



Buy this issue!

FICTION

INTERVIEW

POETRY

Laurence Alexander

Three Poems

Rick Bass

Gold Hill, The Yaak, June 1998

Nathaniel Bellows

Liberty Island

Alfred Corn

Two Poems

Christopher Dunn

Nefertiti

Stephen Edgar

Sun Pictorial

Corey Marks

A Letter of Explanation

Jacqueline Osherow

Ri'è Yazmin

Kathleen Ossip

Two Poems

Robert Phillips

Soliloquy of the Ethiopian Eunuch

Melissa Range

Two Poems

Stephen Sandy

Three Poems

Vijay Seshadri

Ailanthus

Vijay Seshadri

Interview

Phillip Sterling

Three Poems

Terry Stokes

Two Poems

Corey Thrasher

Three Poems

Robert Urquhart

Two Poems

Sidney Wade

Four Poems

FEATURE

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

FROM THE ARCHIVE

STAFF PICKS

ADVERTISEMENT



FEATURED AUDIO

Ernest Hemingway

The Art of Fiction No. 21
Cipriani, October 2003
T ...



[Download File](#)

00:00 /

SUGGESTED READING





Stories That Reclaim the Future

By Victor LaValle February 6, 2019

S...

THE DAILY
ARTS & CULTURE

David McCullough, The Art of Biography No. 2

By David McCullough

“ ...

FROM THE ARCHIVE, ISSUE 152
INTERVIEW

NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the *Paris Review* newsletter and keep up with news, parties, readings, and more.

Enter email address

SIGN UP

EVENTS

Join the writers and staff of *The Paris Review* at our next event.

STORE

Visit our store to buy archival issues of the magazine, prints, T-shirts, and accessories.

[Subscribe](#)

[Support](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Submissions](#)

[Masthead](#)

[Prizes](#)

[Bookstores](#)

[Events](#)

[Media Kit](#)

[Audio](#)

[Video](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

The miracle began with a miracle. I was sitting in my gold-trimmed chariot (well, not exactly my chariot—like all my accoutrements, it belongs to her— Candace,