

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Thunderbird

David Ives

1. Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the headlight
Of the totally cool
1955 Thunderbird.
2. I was of three minds
Like a garage
In which three Thunderbirds
Are parked.
3. The sticker price
Is nothing.
The Thunderbird
Is everything.
4. A man is one.
A woman is one.
A man and a woman
Having sex in a Thunderbird
Are one.
Unless they do it twice.
Then they are three.
Or maybe four.
You do the arithmetic.
5. I do not know which to prefer,
The beauty of innuendoes
Or the genuine leather upholstery.
6. A shadow on ice
Has an indecipherable cause.
A coughing sound
Under the hood
That
Could cost me big time.
7. O thin men of Hartford,
Listen to that baby purr
And
Eat your hearts out.
8. I know noble accents
And lucid, inescapable rhythms.
But I know, too,
That a babe loves a guy
With a Thunderbird.
9. When a Thunderbird goes,
It really
Goes,
Man.
10. At the sight of a Thunderbird
Flying through a yellow light
The Dodge dealer
Lowers his prices.
11. He rode over Connecticut
In an aqua Thunderbird.
Once, a fear nagged him,
That he had forgotten
His license
And registration.
12. It was evening all afternoon.
It was snowing
And it was going to snow.
No chance
To take out the Thunderbird
For a spin,
Helas.
13. The speedometer needle is moving.
The Thunderbird must be moving.
Or else I'm really drunk.

from the New York Times Magazine, Sunday, August
28, 1994