

# Woman Outside Funeral Home Lighting Up

*by* Jerry Ratch

If you ever find yourself outside a funeral home lighting up  
contemplating the future of the unknown, contemplate this  
Maybe the cigarette's wet on your lip and you are wondering why

Or in the middle of the night you are lying awake  
and try saying all of your other lovers' names combined  
into one long marvelous, voluptuous name

which goes crawling all over your brain like a giant caterpillar  
reminding you of who you were, and when, and why  
Or if you were ever lonely, or at least alone, at all. Ever

