

funny books

I was with the first
girlfriend that I've had
in some time

it felt good
to get back in the game
I'd spent so much time
alone that I enjoyed
the company of another

I had to assimilate
her into my routine

instead of waking up,
reading the paper,
eating a breakfast of
root beer and cigars,
writing for a while
4,5,6 hours
and then going out
until 2 or 3 am

I'd get up
shave,
wash my privates,
clean the place,
and wait to hear her car pull up
and her heels coming to the door-

I took her to the comic shop-
it was Wednesday-
new comics, beautiful

she called me foolish
for being such an old man
and still reading comic books

“Why do you read these things?”

“I'm a student of all literature.”

“You were never a student at all.”

Jay, the owner
had my weekly comics
ready for me to pick up
but two Filipino boys were ahead
of me in line

“Comics are for boys...” she said.

“It’s an expensive habit.
30 bucks a week or more.
You need to be an adult with a job
to be a collector.”

“You’ve just started making money
and you’re going to blow it on these
funny books? What about me?”

“What about you?”

“Who is gonna pay for me?”

“What do I look like?”

“A fucking pedophile
hanging around in this store!”

“You bitch!” I yelled.

She made a face
and stormed out
probably for good

I went to the counter
took out my wallet
and pulled out
two twenties.