



4-15-1999

## The Probabilities of Sinking for Kerry Coons

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13023/DISCLOSURE.08.06>

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### Recommended Citation

Neufeld, Peter (1999) "The Probabilities of Sinking for Kerry Coons," *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory*. Vol. 8 , Article 6.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13023/DISCLOSURE.08.06>

Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/disclosure/vol8/iss1/6>

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Peter Neufeld

## The Probabilities of Sinking for Kerry Coons

Altitudes often reach 30,000 feet or more  
the improbability of flying

a nearly prenatal instinct  
to fear death by falling

in human life  
a lack of support or airspeed are inevitable

the process of travel  
by boat for example

rusted rail and leaning  
give way to

watch island  
appear then disappear  
turn head follow strict  
increments of

horizontal gradations of

opaque to transparent mist

the brown of river  
gives way imperceptibly  
to the blue green of sea

Hard to express yourself clearly and to be heard. Support promised to be given turning out to be merely a dream. If looking for a mate, watch out for a possible serious mistake. Legal case in your favor. Winning good company. Meeting relatives. No lucks.

Tendency towards an aim does not imply that the aim is attained.

The aim is attainable only in approximations.

sugar snow  
    beneath thick slabs of ice  
give way to the occasional science  
    of the avalanche  
as unpredictable as they  
    are imprecise

the firebreather speaks  
a new language of heat and kerosene

members of that profession  
are highly susceptible to consumption  
and chronic bronchial inflammation

The loss of the Miranda was still fresh on everyone's mind. The main object of the expedition was to study Greenland's glacier system, the inland ice cap and icebergs; and to map the hitherto unknown portions of Melville Bay. Sketch the human, animal, and vegetable. Name life of the arctic region. Visit Peary's camp and bring back news of him in advance of his return. Return to Philadelphia. Drift into journalism. Engineer the mountains of Pennsylvania. He has since time traveled extensively. Hunted in the vicinity of Equator. Shot reindeer feeding on lichen in the Arctic Tundra.

little shrines  
the house beautiful  
in other time, other season

cousin Anthony and I  
inspired little rivers  
through suffering

little journeys  
we found black pebbles  
and cool to the touch  
five sins of an architect

tick-tock treasures  
the nursery  
the infants magazine

the vanishing pictures  
of yellow beauty  
white wings and similar things

zigzag journeys around the world