Gender Crunching: Parochial Style

Bob Mulligan

DOI: https://doi.org/10.13023/disclosure.14.09

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/disclosure

Part of the Creative Writing Commons
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 License.

Recommended Citation
DOI: https://doi.org/10.13023/disclosure.14.09
Available at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/disclosure/vol14/iss1/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Theory at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory by an authorized editor of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.
Mulligan

consider yourself lucky
some children don't get there
they fail, they flail,
they fall beyond the pale
but you, my boy, you found a way
heaven's no more than that

Bob Mulligan

Gender Crunching: Parochial Style

The Rosary of the Sorrowful Mysteries has just been completed. All is
still except for the dust motes – residents in the liberating light of
ancient stained glass windows. The entire grammar school is in
attendance. As is the custom, boys are seated in front and the girls are
behind them.

Concept for Act I: Daedalus is to Icarus as Japetto is to Pinocchio.
Dorothy had no father. We're not talking about mothers here.

Concept for Act II: The priest, male by virtue of his vocation or priest
by virtue of his gender? In any case, he was the only (temporarily)
effective constraint on any of the shrieking sisters. A crystallizing
moment occurred for Judy in grade 3 upon noticing that his he-ness
possessed the capacity to shut up her high-ness.

Act II, Scene 3 (dialogue excerpt): Father Gulagus: “Sister Kristina,
you must end this now. Submit to my authority and remove those
papers from the bulletin board.”

Concept for Act III: A nationally acclaimed feminist, former nun,
prolific author, darling of the talk show circuit, and currently a featured
seminar speaker, Dr. Judith Josephs, former provincial in the Order of
the Hopeful Sisters, will be lecturing at the local community college,
three city blocks from her former convent. Her topic: “The Channeling of
Gender Roles: We Took Very Poor Care of Our Girls!” It is expected that
tickets will sell out quickly.

Act III, Scene 5 (dialogue excerpt): Dr. Josephs: “In the final analysis it
is a shame, and I emphasize the word “shame,” for what this structure,
this church of man-made rules did in a rather conscious way to the
Mulligan

mass formation of both, and I mean to clearly emphasize both, female and male identity along with a variety of attendant expectations – some obvious and others not so obvious – many with insidious consequences."

Chorus:

We served at the altar, we boys
We lead in the church, we boys
We were God Almighty's soldiers
We were God's Almighty soldiers
We were served at the altar, we boys