

1996

the expatriate

Erin C. Malone
Denison University

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the expatriate

1
enter, the poet, a liar
branded and
well read

she's tired

2
the waitress brought white
toast instead of wheat
and has two lazy eyes

it hurts to look at her

3
the poet remembers that it is not
her place to judge, but transcribe
taps her fingernails on the table

she is not at home here

4
open any book and you will
know that life is not only for
the living, but the dead

the waitress knows

5
the poet glances down
at blank pages
stained with coffee and

wonders, where has poetry gone?

6
exeunt, the poet
branded a liar, from life
left behind her

she cared not what plato told