

1995

## Why I can't sleep at night

Colin Bossen  
*Denison University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Bossen, Colin (1995) "Why I can't sleep at night," *Exile*: Vol. 42 : No. 2 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol42/iss2/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the English at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Exile by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

---

## Why I can't sleep at night

Because I had my fourth birthday under the Eiffel Tower  
Because even the same scenery grows dull after a while  
Because I miss my brothers  
Because I dream of ragged rocky meadows, purple heather, Spain and Scotland  
Because I want to fly to Mars or was that Venus?  
Because somewhere on this earth, perhaps in Maine or New Hampshire, there is a place  
    I won't want to flee fifteen minutes after I arrive  
Because in Mexico and not America every town, pueblo, is different  
Because there are more than ten thousand languages in the world and I want to learn  
    them all  
Because instead of breast milk my mother fed me tales of the Philippines, Nepal, Italy  
    and Turkey  
Because once I ate too much acid and lost my head among the clouds  
Because I want to find it  
Because my father's father's father was a Jewish Communist from Russia  
Because even though I believe in both virtue and fairies I have yet to see either  
Because the nightly news, with Ted Koppel, is nothing more than glorified gossip  
Because I love sunflowers  
Because I am searching for the Paris Commune  
Because I like to dance so hard my skin breaks open and I have visions  
Because someday I may find myself, not in a strange Buddhist meditation Om chant,  
    but among other people  
Because I have a friend who walks on fire  
Because I am nothing more than a name, someone else gave me.

*Colin Bossen '98*