

1991

## The Car Salesman

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### Recommended Citation

Ream, Tom (1991) "The Car Salesman," *Exile*: Vol. 37 : No. 1 , Article 20.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol37/iss1/20>

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## The Car Salesman

Brown leather shoes with  
tiny holes punched in curls  
swirl to a drain in the toe.

As he walks past a sticky  
clean flat maroon Ford, headed  
for a gun metal gray Buick  
with a customer in a denim suit  
and two boys younger than ten,  
he watches the shoes brush the  
blacktop and thinks to keep them  
until they wear from his feet.

The two boys watch him too,  
watching his shoes. He tells  
them, "I'm going to show you  
a car as black as Batman's cape."  
Their faces don't light up  
when they see the car is gray.

Later, at home, he sits as his  
wife asks about the lost sale.  
He cannot tell her why.

In the kitchen, he eats soup.  
His little girl walks up, asks  
how to make a heart from paper.  
His wife frowns when he tells  
the girl, "I honestly don't know."

Asleep, he dreams of two boys  
wanting to see Batman black  
and a girl looking for a heart.  
He walks to find them,  
wearing the shoes away from his feet.

*Tom Ream*