

Workshop

Michael Bayer

The following poem was inspired by actual comments overheard in the student workshops I attend as part of my studies toward an MFA in creative writing at Fairfield University. While many of these lines are exaggerated, some are verbatim. Any writer who has ever participated in a workshop understands the angst and absurdity which can often color the experience, and the resulting love-hate-love relationships one can forge with his or her peers. It is in the spirit of loving devotion to this venue, and with the encouragement of my classmates and faculty, that this piece was submitted for publication.

I love the symbolism of the goat.

I love your use of red throughout the scene. I love red. So does my daughter. She has a red hat that I bought her at Penney's and it looks really cute on her.

Was it your intention to make the character totally uninteresting?

This school photographer is really disruptive. May I borrow your lip gloss?

I love how he's happy, and then later he's sad.

This comment is really minor and nitpicky. May I use the white board?

I'd like to see a little more humanity from Jack. Oh. I didn't catch the reference to his paw.

I found this section borderline pornographic. Do you mind if I keep my copy?

The death scene was really funny.

This poem will be amazing once you change everything about it.

I love your font.

I had no idea you were writing a children's book. Oh. Sorry.

Couldn't she have just used a dildo?