

RHINO

# RHINO



2 ⊕ ⊕ 6

D.O. Moore

## WEDDING DRESS: DOUBTING COLOR, DOUBTING MEMORY

For lunch she's having pastrami on rye. The waiter hasn't brought it yet. Right when she ordered it, when the waiter wrote "pstrm/rye," she knew she hates pastrami. Now she's waiting for pastrami on rye, which she hates.

Only afterward does she realize what she wanted wasn't. At least something simpler. Why all these eyelets?

No one ever says what anything stands for. What does it mean, "Arizona?" The atlas is mute on this point, while so verbose on others. Capital: Phoenix. State bird: Cactus wren. Admitted to Union: 1912. Population: 3,677,988. Current forest fires: 44. Chief haircut: pageboy. Typical concern: red wine stains on white.

Why was her hair pulled back so tight, so much away from her face? Like a skinned monkey. The veil helped a little, but it was fantastically hot underneath. The minister watched the sweat roll down her forehead and nose.

In the back of *Handbook for the Understanding of Poetry*, she discovered a dictionary of poetic symbols. In the sub-category "Weather," she learns that in a poem "rain" means either 1) Fertility or 2) Sadness. Fog: 1) Aimlessness or 2) Confusion. Sleet: 1) Anger 2) Disorientation. She has checked this book out of the library permanently, carries it around in her purse.

Somehow they got the nicest honeymoon suite in Phoenix. The moon was full all on its own. Every object was too slow for interpretation, too dense to tell if it was beautiful. She thinks it was beautiful. She thought it was then.