

The Tunnel of Love

The boarding pass was in a handy place, I
Was in the seat they assigned me. I looked up
Into a young man's face. Two wanted to sit
In the empty seat and mine. Even the flight
Attendant would say a change would be all right.
That I could sit ahead beside a very nice man.
But I felt shy that to relinquish my seat might
Send me far ahead and out the door to Copenhagen
Airport, just for a fool's kindness. Also,
The two held a place in a group I trained to witness
As those young enough to be my children. So
I said so. And I am nobody's mother — I never
Learned when to be lenient, when to be firm.
To create a cozy couch for two, at will,
For an Atlantic crossing, offended me — she sat
Beside the window. I added up expenses
On my little calculator. It took so many
Hours to reach Seattle, but outside always
It was blue day. And it was warm enough inside
The plane. I suppose I got my way about it?
No notes came back — he had nothing to say.