

Figuring in the Figure

Ben Berman

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Stand your ground and make thoughtful observations—carefully, and with aplomb. Ben Berman repeatedly delivers on this not-so-easy dictum. He ain't no bum.

A fan of Dante's terza rima rhyme schemes, Berman's early book, *Strange Borderlands*, won the Peace Corps Award for Best Book of Poetry. He edits *Solstice Literary Magazine* and teaches around Boston.

The Game

Matopos, Zimbabwe

*The jungle, to us, was this big carnival
where you could shoot photos of gnus
snuggling with their adorable calves,*

*but our cameras must have looked like guns,
and those wildebeests stopped grazing on ferns
and began instead to snort and moo and grunt.*

*Still, not until one hunched down on all fours,
lowered its gangly mane and then charged
did we see not furry but fury,*

realize the game had suddenly changed.

MATT SUTHERLAND (May/June 2017)

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