

## *Dean Young*

### THIS LIVING HAND

It's not only the word roses  
lurking inside neurosis or the fact  
that most of my formal education  
occured in the midwest, so too  
my summer job inhaling industrial  
reactants should be considered.  
It's an unstable world, Babe.  
Always an inner avalanche  
as they say in receiving.  
I'm sure if I'd gotten a shot  
of Karl instead of Zeppo Marx  
in utereo, things would have turned out  
differently. Instead, my mother  
went right on eating lobster.  
But where were we? Weren't you  
over there struggling with your territory?  
How did that go? Do you feel your co-workers  
were supportive? Did anyone lay hands  
upon you? Dreams are down the hall.  
If you were shot into outer space  
and came back in a 100 years, unaged,  
what would you find? What can you do  
personally to insure that never happens?  
Will you have my baby? It's amazing  
anything ever gets done around here.  
Everyone thinks even changing vase water  
is in someone else's purview as if  
this is a place where rivers flow backwards  
and children balance eggs on end  
demonstrating forces at work, ordinary  
forces come to deranged circumstances.  
I'm not exactly one of those ruined folk

with a narrative tied round me neck but  
I have obviously seen too many movies  
in which people transform into wolves,  
reptiles, metal reptiles, poisonous clouds,  
vegetarians, bunny-boilers, organs  
of the other side, strippers stripping  
to fund the needs of a special child,  
to be of use regarding: work load,  
love forlornness, travel arrangements  
(don't go but if you do, don't come back),  
moose behavior (I have heard however  
they should not be approached),  
chandelier installation that does or  
does not require re-wiring. Ditto  
check-book balancing, rifle-repair  
of current manufacture or flint-lock,  
all forms of testifying, arbitration  
and/or surgery although in an emergency,  
say if a bee flew into your mouth,  
stinging your throat thereby swelling  
closed your windpipe, I could perhaps  
be availed upon to attempt a tracheotomy  
with this very pen  
with which I write these words.