

A Dream of the Ring: The Great Jack Johnson

I'll be the first
to chase the white hope
from coast to coast
corner him at last
& buckle his knees
Rednecks in Reno
will check in their guns
& drop their ducats
to watch the sun gleam
from my teeth my dark muscles
my great bald head
Vamps & debs will blush & giggle
as they watch me train
will prance into paradise with me
carve their lives in my back
kill themselves
knead my heart like dough
Hate will snag me
jail me for crossing state lines
& being a man
I'll fight bulls in Madrid
Griots will feed me to their children
to make them strong
My jabs & hooks
sweat & knockouts
my derbies long cars & gall
will live forever
I'll have one rag of a time
when I become Jack Johnson