

## Two Poems · *James Laughlin*

### A CURIOUS ROMANCE

He would write a message to her  
with his finger in the dust on

some table top in the old family  
house (deserted since the grand-

parents had died) and when she  
came there (perhaps years later)

she would answer him (they were  
cousins who had known each other

only in childhood) this exchange  
went on for a long time until her

death the caretaker understood  
and did not obliterate their de-

clarations the words can still  
be deciphered by a visitor who

opens the curtains to the light.