

*Gerthie Owtram*



## An Attractive Middle-Aged Woman Dines Out

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She drinks the wine in deep swallows  
Over shallow toasts to men whose eyes reflect  
That better days have been spent elsewhere.

Her sparkling laughter seems overdone  
As if prepared the night before.

These are lean times, with little joy to savor.  
Where are the connoisseurs to appreciate  
The delicacy of middle-age,  
To satisfy the taste for something fruitful?

Just when the appetite is greatest,  
There isn't much left on the menu.

