

## FAWM 2024 – Sherwood Anderson’s “The Egg”

7 **possession**

People who have few possessions cling tightly to those they have.  
That is one of the facts that make life so discouraging

*After ten years of worry with incubators that did not hatch, and with tiny—and in their own way lovely—balls of fluff that passed on into semi-naked pullethood and from that into dead henhood, we threw all aside and packing our belongings on a wagon drove down Griggs’s Road toward Bidwell, a tiny caravan of hope looking for a new place from which to start on our upward journey through life.*

*We must have been a sad looking lot, not, I fancy, unlike refugees fleeing from a battlefield. Mother and I walked in the road. The wagon that contained our goods had been borrowed for the day from Mr. Albert Griggs, a neighbor. Out of its sides stuck the legs of cheap chairs and at the back of the pile of beds, tables, and boxes filled with kitchen utensils was a crate of live chickens, and on top of that the baby carriage in which I had been wheeled about in my infancy. Why we stuck to the baby carriage I don’t know. It was unlikely other children would be born and the wheels were broken. People who have few possessions cling tightly to those they have. That is one of the facts that make life so discouraging.*

**you hold on to what you got      snapping? RnB? RnB cohen?**  
**you hold on to what you got**

**we must have been a sad looking lot  
moving on (up) ... with a heavy load  
like refugees fleeing from a battlefield  
counting on ... something better down the road**

**you don’t have to live like a refugee  
you don’t have to live like a refugee**

**you hold on to what you got  
you hold on to what you got**

**after ten years   on the farm   we left it all behind  
in a borrowed wagon   all our worldly goods tied up with rope  
chairs   tables   old baby carriage   kitchen utensils  
down Grigg’s road toward Bidwell – a tiny caravan of hope**

**why we kept that baby carriage  
i surely don’t know  
the only time we needed it  
was long long ago**

**when you don’t have much, you hold on to what you got  
one of the discouraging facts of life... like it or not**

**you hold on to what you got  
you hold on to what you got**