

FAWM 2024 – Sherwood Anderson’s “The Egg”

10 stage fright

As so often happens in life
he had thought so much and so often
of the situation that now confronted him
that he was somewhat nervous in its presence.

For a long time father, whom Joe Kane had never seen before, remained silently gazing at his visitor. He was no doubt suffering from an attack of stage fright. As so often happens in life he had thought so much and so often of the situation that now confronted him that he was somewhat nervous in its presence.

For one thing, he did not know what to do with his hands. He thrust one of them nervously over the counter and shook hands with Joe Kane. “How-de-do,” he said. Joe Kane put his newspaper down and stared at him. Father’s eye lighted on the basket of eggs that sat on the counter and he began to talk.

**As so often ... happens in our lives
We’re not ready ... when the moment arrives**

**How – de – do! How – de – do !
Have I got something to show to you! ooh ooh ooh
How – de – do! How – de – do !**

**My father lay in wait for his prey.
Waiting for the right customer, day after lonely day.
There was no doubt, a showman, lurking somewhere in him.
And then one evening, young Joe Kane walked in.**

**He bought a five-cent cigar and ordered a cup of joe.
It started raining out, so he decided not to go.
“I’m waiting for the evening train. It’s late.”
Blame it all on a simple twist of fate.**

**How – de – do! How – de – do !
Have I got something to show to you! ooh ooh ooh
How – de – do! How – de – do !**

**Father gazed at him silently in the night,
No doubt suffering from a bit of stage fright.
He’d waited so long for this moment in time...
And the egg was never far from his mind.**

**He paced the floor and didn’t know where to stand.
Nervous fidgets with his sweaty hands.
Joe Kane wondered how much weirder it would get.
Stage fright... and the stage was set.**

**How – de – do! How – de – do !
Have I got something to show to you! ooh ooh ooh
How – de – do! How – de – do !**