

FAWM 2024 – Sherwood Anderson’s “The Egg”

11 Christopher Columbus was a cheat

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. “Well,” he began hesitatingly, “well, you have heard of Christopher Columbus, eh?” He seemed to be angry. “That Christopher Columbus was a cheat,” he declared emphatically. “He talked of making an egg stand on its end. He talked, he did, and then he went and broke the end of the egg.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egg_of_Columbus

My father seemed to his visitor to be beside himself at the duplicity of Christopher Columbus. He muttered and swore. He declared it was wrong to teach children that Christopher Columbus was a great man when, after all, he cheated at the critical moment. He had declared he would make an egg stand on end and then when his bluff had been called he had done a trick. Still grumbling at Columbus, father took an egg from the basket on the counter and began to walk up and down.

bad religion – intro verse just acoustic and vox, then punk drum and electric and angry yelling

On that late and rainy Pickleville night.

Something lit the fuse that father had kept just out of sight.

He paced, muttered, swore, and held his head...

He looked at poor Joe Kane, and this is what he said:

Christopher Columbus was a cheat.

While we curse the bread and go without the meat.

He glittered when he walked down the street.

Christopher Columbus was a cheat.

We teach children Columbus was a great man.

Just because he sailed somewhere he didn’t plan.

The unknown becomes a highway once it’s paved across the land.

It takes a trailblazing pioneer to make an egg stand.

His exploits fill his fans with felicity...

But Columbus was a navigator of duplicity.

When his bluff was called, he made the egg stick

At the crucial moment, it was just a stupid trick

Christopher Columbus was a cheat.

While we curse the bread and go without the meat.

He glittered when he walked down the street.

Christopher Columbus was a cheat.