

1980

Autumnal

Thomas Swiss

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Swiss, Thomas. "Autumnal." *The Iowa Review* 11.2 (1980): 85-85. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.2579>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Autumnal · *Thomas Swiss*

What was it that
 Struck me as curious
 On the road, returning home?
It was late afternoon,
 Cold for September, so
 I had the heater
Turned on in the car: it gave off
 That awful chemical odor
 Machines make after long rest.
The trees, I noticed,
 Had not yet begun
 To turn as the light had.
Against the roughly-cut,
 Overlapping buildings—
 Creating a modest skyline—
The light was angled and going out
 Earlier than I last remembered.
 I'd just had my hair cut
At the airport. I was thinking
 Of physical comfort:
 A bath and shave,
Sitting down to supper.
 But the road became strange
 As I passed by water—
"Grey's Lake" the sign said,
 It seemed suitably named.
 Cars in the distance
Crossed the bridge in a line—
 Over the Iowa River, rising,
 All of us coming home.
Home, then, in my comfortable study,
 I tried to get that
 Feeling down. I urged it on,
But could only write: *Today*
 The light pointed
 Towards something important.
Or was it the water?
 I verged on understanding
 And was held.