

1993

# Tess Learns to Be Professional

Zona Teti

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

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Teti, Zona. "Tess Learns to Be Professional." *The Iowa Review* 23.2 (1993): 66-66. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.4283>

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](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

TESS LEARNS TO BE PROFESSIONAL

“Wouldn’t it be better for everyone?”  
he said. But I would not lie on a slightly  
stinking stone heavy with its own bowels.

He slapped me again and again  
to give me no time for bewilderment,  
that decadent emotion.

No one cared. Birds had their sky,  
and the stones stayed in their posy ring,  
cloaked to their bald cheeks in shadow.

Even I wasn’t let to care. I asked  
his pardon for crying, and he forgave me  
with the gesture of a healthy prince.

The standing stones nodded their weight  
like heads approving the end of soul  
and the birth of eyes of lead.