

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Kevin Ridgeway: Two Poems

Kevin Ridgeway · Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018

### POEM FOR MY 35th BIRTHDAY

I never thought I'd make  
it this far. My habits were  
so deadly and my will to  
live in my twenties brought  
me the closest to death  
that I've ever been.

I was convinced I'd be  
dead by 27 or 33.

But I even survived a  
horrid 34th year to make  
it to what has got to be  
the most fucking boring  
non-milestone birthday  
of all, and I get to spend  
it with a bunch of mental  
patients, who will sing  
me happy birthday  
and drool all over me.

At least I won't get  
lonely, and I'm positive  
all of the old people  
in my psychiatric  
program will laugh  
when I tell them  
how old I am, and  
they will say that  
I'm still a baby.

I'm more like a  
King Baby,  
actually,  
with childlike  
demands and  
hissy fits to

prove it.  
 That's what  
 they tell me  
 in Alcoholics  
 Anonymous,  
 anyway.  
 And well,  
 sometimes  
 it's good to  
 be the King.

\*

## ZaSu Pitts

didn't say a word in a publicity shot  
 draped in an unbuttoned  
 leopard print coat just enough  
 to expose where her mid thigh  
 met the lace hem of a slip  
 the color of two-reeler  
 pre-Hayes code  
 black and white indiscretion,  
 frozen in a colorless time  
 long before I was born to  
 be young, dumb and full  
 of unenlightened cum  
 and slowly daydreaming  
 myself into a great depression  
 of my own while she glared at me  
 from 1933 in the back row  
 of eighth grade social studies  
 in 1996 before I folded her up  
 and stuck her in my front pocket  
 until the next time I needed  
 a little hope as she rolled her eyes  
 at me from the darkness.

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