

ORIGIN STORY WITH SCHOLIA

i

In the beginning a
table of friends needing more

ice

a smoke-filled room a man
(movie-star-like
or a god-like

which now are the same thing)

hailed a waiter

through billowing rings,

saw her seeing him.

ii

The body wants what

it wants

based on imperatives

older than gills and she wanted

him

despite warnings about the dangers

of falling for stars.

Commented [CM1]: Ice is centered on the line because (1) it sounds nice and deserves recognition and (2) the meaning behind the word balances an otherwise hot(ish) scene. Martha says, *Take the temperature of your poem as you go along.*

Commented [CM2]: A comment, maybe, on the worship of “influencers” in the *Zeitgeist*.

Commented [CM3]: The scene takes place before the Surgeon General’s first warnings on cigarette cartons and packages.

Commented [CM4]: When we are in touch with our surroundings, we feel the presence of others and sense their awareness of us.

Commented [CM5]: Because of this line break, the word “what” could be viewed as an interrogative pronoun — *what?* — rather than a pronoun meaning *that which*.

Commented [CM6]: The mind may have decided that it had no interest in marriage or children, but the body has other ideas and becomes a Trojan Horse.

Commented [CM7]: Not literally falling, but the idiom as in *She really fell for him*; also a sort of pun or metaphor about “falling stars.” But you knew that.