

# The New Criterion

## Poems

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### The consolations

by [Adam Kirsch](#)

Three new poems after Boethius.

*after Boethius*

III.7 *Habet hoc voluptas omnis*

First the hypnosis  
As the hive buzzes,  
Issuing dank and honeyed promises;

Lust for the rose-  
Gold-tinted ooze  
Makes you forget the swarm, the sting, the bruise.

II.4 *Quisquis volet perennem*

The man who cannot hope to own  
A house unless he takes a loan  
He'll still be paying off when he  
Is on Social Security  
Might daydream of a terraced perch  
On Venice or Miami Beach,  
Watching the wave that scours and breaks  
In sizzling phosphorescent flakes,  
Swimming naked in a balmy  
California January,  
Breathing Floridian perfume  
Of sunscreen, alcohol and brine;  
But then, remembering the jolt  
Preparing in the coastal fault,  
The timber-smashing wind and rain  
Of yearly Force Five hurricanes,  
He thinks it wiser to invest  
In the dry, steady, flat Midwest,  
Where a s ...

**Adam Kirsch's** most recent book is *Invasions: Poems* (Ivan R. Dee).

[more from this author](#)

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