

The New Criterion

Poems

March 2008

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](#)

This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 26 March 2008, on page 27

Copyright © 2009 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/the-consolations-3782>