

At The Parish House

The Living Poets Society 2024

April 14, 2024

The Poets and Their Poems

Philip Dutart Carter As a poet, Philip, 84, can claim a very late but intense vocation, publishing online for the past eight years. He summarized the rest of his career in what he calls a bare-bones bio:

Student,
Student, etcetera
Printer's devil, salesman,

Deckhand,

Dishwasher, copy boy,
Reporter, bureau chief,
Freelancer,

Editor, publisher,

Investor, developer, actor,
Producer,

THE DOVE

So say you like to shoot doves,
and have done the humane thing,
the civilized thing, the decent thing
and plucked a wounded dove's
head off and stuffed its body in your
blood-stained hunting sack.

So say you ate that dove (and others)
that very night and praised your wife
for the excellence of her cuisine,
her choice of wine, a miraculous chablis.

So do you even remember the decapitated
dove whose warm beating heart you held
under your left thumb while you pulled
her head off with a couple of fingers of
the other hand, just like that?

Yes, you do. And then you write
a poem about it.