

2017

## Background

Eugene Rinehart

*Dominican University of California*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholar.dominican.edu/tuxedolit>

 Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#), [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Rinehart, Eugene (2017) "Background," *The Tuxedo Archives*: Vol. 2010 , Article 7.

Available at: <http://scholar.dominican.edu/tuxedolit/vol2010/iss1/7>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Literature and Languages at Dominican Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Tuxedo Archives by an authorized editor of Dominican Scholar. For more information, please contact [michael.pujals@dominican.edu](mailto:michael.pujals@dominican.edu).

# BACKGROUND

Eugene Rinehart

Dad stands in the back aisle

And smiles

I know, he prefers it that way

To being up front and

Not having a good time.

Too many people,

He always hated too many people –

There are less in the back

So he stood in the back—

Where he could have a good time.

I don't mind.

Of all the faces he sees mine.

I know he is there

In the open air

Where the crush cannot touch him.

I feel his relief

And the odd sense of peace

That comes from his aisle.

He'd rather not be in the paternal pile

Where breath is too slim.

That man, the smiling man

Beyond the din,  
Where you might miss  
Him in the thin  
Light; that is my father  
And he is having a good time.