

A FIGURE

smoky, dark
The ~~crowded~~ lounge of the Golden Bell was ~~too~~ *crowded* smoky and dark. The juke-box played a new, brassy tune. I walked over to the bar. No seat to be had. At the end of the counter, there was a group ~~of men~~ drinking beer from the bottle. I joined them.

I don't care too much for beer, but drinking alone, standing up, at the end of a murky room, that was the best I could get. Beside s, beer blended well with the *vociferous crowd*, the smelly air, peroxyde blondes and levy clad, greasy haired men.

"This here is my prize possession," the dark eyed, slim and tall man next to me said. "I've worked on it for two solid weeks," he continued, showing me a thumbsized wooden figure.

I nodded affirmatively, not knowing what to say. It was too small a figure for me to make any judgement in the little light I had.

"You're too good for it, heh? What do you know about art, anyway?" , the man insisted.

"I didn't say it was bad," I apologized, "merely can't see too well in here."

"Lawrence is my name," *he went on* the ~~guy~~ continued, "and I've got a damn good gas lighter," ~~he went on, as he~~ turned up the thing and let it flame like a bonfire. "Now you can see. What do you say?"

I looked the little ~~human~~ *human* figure over. In a minute I saw it, no bigger than my thumb, its *human* prune-like face, warped up mouth, deformed nose, and one good eye. The other one was nothing but a socket. The socket, void of anything. Just a deep hollow whole, where eyes, nerves and blood veins were supposed to be.

~~Below the neck, where the break was~~ Below there was a neck , or a break, like a circumscition. Then, drooping down, were the shoulders. One of these produced an arm, which hung down. The other one was a knot.

Let someone to introduce Larry to Pat then leave - a "friend" in common - This gives margin to the conversation; to Larry's not having a ride, since he was counting on his friend to also show the "friend" already knew all about him & was dumping him on someone else.