



JACLR

*Journal of Artistic
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**Mark Antoni Rossi
"Pimp Slap My Poodle"**

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Pimp Slap My Poodle

It's hard to hate a Taco Bell dog. But I'm giving it every effort. He's about the size of a cat; yet leaks more than a White House staffer. Wish I could train him to use a cat box. Wish he was as quiet as a church mouse. Wish his stomach wasn't connected to my Visa debit card.

He doesn't like anyone but me. Why? I don't know. I don't take him on walks and have no patience for a weirdo in a winter coat of white wool. I'm not an animal hater. He was left to me by a dying relative. I grew up with cats. Now I'm stuck with dysfunctional doggie. And all I wanna do is pimp slap him whenever he starts barking at shadows.

He means well. And probably misses my aunt whom treated him like a son. Sometimes in the afternoon after a rain storm I see him staring outside. He's looking for a glimmer of her ghost dancing in the drops splashing against the window. He's chasing yesterday because I haven't adjusted fast enough to show him a tomorrow.

Somehow this pain the butt mutt has stolen by heart. And I have to figure out a way to form a relationship with a lonely dog. I'm not about to hug a tree or save a frigging whale. But I'll help this dummy find happiness again.

Bioprofile of the author: Mark Antony Rossi's poetry, criticism, fiction and photography have appeared in *The Antigone Review*, *Another Chicago Review*, *Bareback Magazine*, *Black Heart Review*, *Collages & Bricolages*, *Death Throes*, *Ethical Spectacle*, *Gravel*, *Flash Fiction*, *Japanophile*, *On The Rusk*, *Purple Patch*, *Scrivener Creative Review*, *Sentiment Literary*

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