

ANDREW FAULKNER

UNTITLED

The unacknowledged legislators of this evening's meal
insist that we acknowledge our sources in the grandest of style.
They insist that when we grow up we become narrative poems.
I've dined beneath Roman arches in a lightning storm.

I've dined by the banks of the Arno, the Tiber, by three
creeks you've never heard of. There are several other
meals I would like to tell you about while we're here.
The unacknowledged legislators would like you

to place your damn order already. If you're wondering
whether I'm all talk, I can think of no credible
way to respond. This is a nice meal.
My belly swells in time with the music, courtesy of

a stereo behind the bar. Your water glass rises
and falls like several major tributaries.
The unacknowledged legislators
would like you to tip fifteen percent. They would like

you to return the cutlery. Your water glass is filled
courtesy of modern plumbing. The unacknowledged
legislators would like to thank Hollywood Records
for the appearance of Miley Cyrus,
who will be checking your purse on the way out.