

Spring 1981

The Man Who Wanted to Grow Mushrooms

John Quinn

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Quinn, John (1981) "The Man Who Wanted to Grow Mushrooms," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 16 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss16/9>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

THE MAN WHO WANTED TO GROW MUSHROOMS

It was something to do with the land
in the basement, under a house
he was hemmed into, his life
overrun by women and gardens
and green vegetables.

Something in him grew where
nothing else would. Something
grew dark. Some dank husbandry
gave him strength without light
without roots—something could
make its own life and make it his.
His cattle ranch. His crimson clover.
His secret field of mushrooms
under the house in a light
women couldn't see by. All this
was his until one afternoon
too late for anything else
he called his grandson aside.

"We'll make money at this," he said.

"We'll get our land back again."

But inside two months he was dead,
and the mushrooms still growing
quietly under the floor under my bed.