

# Fearing Paris

*by Marsha Truman Cooper*

Suppose that what you fear  
could be trapped  
and held in Paris.  
Then you would have  
the courage to go  
everywhere in the world.  
All the directions of the compass  
open to you,  
except the degrees east or west  
of true north  
that lead to Paris.  
Still, you wouldn't dare  
put your toes  
smack dab on the city limit line.  
You're not really willing  
to stand on a mountainside,  
miles away,  
and watch the Paris lights  
come up at night.  
Just to be on the safe side  
you decide to stay completely  
out of France.  
But then the danger  
seems too close  
even to those boundaries,  
and you feel  
the timid part of you  
covering the whole globe again.  
You need the kind of friend  
who learns your secret and says,  
"See Paris First."