

Barbara Louder, L0oW Score* (Jess)

This is in the form of a letter, but I think it could be a screenplay

Nov.11, 2021

Dear John,

You ask, "How Does a Red Giant Mean"?¹

Is science really just white guys sitting around being excellent? Is that really how it happens?²

It's too bad that I was not there when you visited the lab. Spending some time with me that day may have corrected your assumptions about who the physicists are and what it is we do. We could have talked about it; you would have been able to ask me questions in person. Asking questions is a crucial part of the process.³ Maybe this is the case in poetry too? I see no reason to pit one against the other, but sometimes it seems that you simply hate my guts and will do anything you can to destroy me.⁴

Who is the ogre here?

We need to keep trying.

The conflict is not really a conflict, but a question of being patient as new and better metaphors emerge.

That's the way the story grows. You kick the tires to see if something deflates, and so far, no flat tires.⁵

I invite you to contact me the next time you are planning to visit my lab.

Sincerely,

Wendy

¹ How Does a Poem Mean, John Ciardi, 1959

² Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, *The Disordered Cosmos*, p.191

³

Wendy Freedman "There may not be a conflict after all' in expanding universe debate", <https://phys.org/news/2021-06-conflict-universe-debate.html>

⁴ May Sarton, on John Ciardi, *First of all a poet; May Sarton; Renowned for her novels and journals, she treasures her poetry the most*. Jack Thomas, Globe Staff, *The Boston Globe*, LIVING, Pg.67, Dec.10. (from Wikipedia, entry for John Ciardi)

⁵ Freedman