

## THE MAN FOR WHOM EVERYTHING CAME EASY

came from an immigrant family  
and didn't own a book  
until he was 16  
So his first desires were simple:  
Fournier playing the Bach cello sonatas, an illuminated globe.  
Since he did well in school,  
and this was America,  
it was easy.  
He worked hard,  
did interesting research  
and in time he could buy  
a Nikon with two telephoto lenses  
and a second recording of the Bach sonatas  
(he had made a mistake about Fournier).  
He was a little unhappy  
that when they needed a new second car  
his wife said that his joking suggestion of a Porsche  
just didn't make sense.  
Invitations to speak came from all over the world.  
What he wanted most (but this he was afraid to say)  
was that his children read good books,  
and not waste their time on hard rock.  
This was more difficult to arrange,  
because you couldn't pay your children  
to do what they didn't like to do. But in time  
they grew up, picked up Tolstoy  
and even, once in a while,  
put the cello sonatas on the record player.  
The man who seemed to do everything well  
actually began to like rock  
at least to dance to it  
(he still complained that he couldn't hear the lyrics).  
Running six miles each day,  
he had less trouble than his wife in keeping his weight down.  
He began to fly first class,  
and sat in on a class on Kierkegaard.  
The man who had everything  
now told his new intellectual friends:  
What I would really like is to have my soul  
as it is not.