

GUILTY KNOWLEDGE, GUILTY PLEASURE

Also by William Logan

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Guilty Knowledge, Guilty Pleasure

THE DIRTY ART OF POETRY

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For Dorothy Drew Damon and Young Buffalo

He is charged with the **guilty knowledge** of this concealment. He must *show*, not *say*, how he came by this knowledge. If a man be found with stolen goods, he must prove how he came by them.

—Daniel Webster, *Speeches and Forensic Arguments*, vol. 1 (1835)

Thus, in the midst of riot, imagined spectres have been known to haunt the man of **guilty pleasure**. He sees hands coming forth to write on the wall against him. The very portraits of his ancestors, which hang in his hall, appear to him to look with frowning aspect.

—Hugh Blair, “On a Life of Dissipation and Pleasure,”
Sermons, vol. 2 (1822)

The fourth witness as to the **guilty knowledge** was the coachman, for though the press removed was not such a one as would print the paper, it at least showed an anxiety to get rid of a suspicious article.

—*The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register*, September 1831

If he is dwelling with delight upon a stratagem of successful fraud, a night of licentious riot, or an intrigue of **guilty pleasure**, let him summon off his imagination as from an unlawful pursuit.

—Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler*, no. 8, April 14, 1750

