

Greta Garbo Poem #41

When I'm with Greta Garbo
she gets very talkative
She likes me to put on my Russian accent
and she plays Ninotchka again
People think we're crazy
especially the waiters at Howard Johnson's
Do you want dessert? they ask
Oh no says Greta Garbo
Ve want to be alone!
and she & I laugh and laugh and laugh

- By Peter Meinke, in *The Contracted World*, 1991

One summer, we went to a celebration of Garbo movies, and saw 5 or 6 of them in a row, after which I felt I knew her very well, which resulted in this poem.