The Bus Trip
Georges Godeau
There were forty of them who came from far away to gather flowers and one of them just died at the restaurant. The paramedics and the doctor are crowded into the doorway. Outside, curious onlookers wait to see the body. Laid out in the aisle, it’s in no hurry. The waitresses, pale, step over it. To trip carrying a dish would be a tragedy. Because of the laughter.

Translated from the French by Daniel Biggs