

Casket Fetishism

Velvet upholstery drapes over
loved ones claimed by death
while classical walnut wood
encompasses their formaldehyde-
soaked body as it rots away
as nature intended and
pricy, polished mahogany paired
with satin-lined interiors
create elegance for one
who will never live to appreciate
its (un)natural beauty.

Expensive copper metal
like they use in Portlandia
and Lady Liberty
fabricated with crepe
upholstery create a
dimension of unparalleled
comfort regardless
of the high temperatures
foreseen in their destiny.
All of this glamor comes
At a hefty price--
upwards of 10,000
dollars.

But hey,
fudge the truth with a
cherry veneer,

and save some currency
in the process of illusion.
Everyone--except the sleazy
funeral director--will think that
the grieving family members
bled a fortune in simulated
honor of the deceased.

Settle for something cheap,
drab steel or
basic pinewood,
no velvet nor crepe
to encompass the corpse,
and the sleazy funeral
director will try to manipulate.
A few will buy into the high price
to help fetishize
nostalgia with material product,
which are bound to fill
the heart temporarily
with ignorance of grief,
only until the fires burn.
And both the selection and the deceased
are a memory of dust.

“To spend is to love,”
murmurs musty and dated
wood paneling that

comprises the walls of the
money-making institution,
no matter how unattainable.