

Wilderness House Literary Review 13/2

Joe Albanese

Lauren Bacall Doesn't Know Shit

"Just put your lips together and blow."

But it's not that easy What's the missing step?

Your whistling dad says,

"a hard day's work would help."

Your whistling

mom says, "get more sunlight"

or "fake it until it's

real,

it will all work out in the end."

Your whistling brothers and sisters say,

"talking it out can help"

or "they make pills for that."

Whistling friends say, "if you socialize more

you'll whistle

better."

"Just put you lips together

and blow," they all repeat.

Listing ways you can't be helped

is only a reminder of failed

attempts - it only makes it worse.

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If you could whistle you'd
be a master by now,
playing your own song
They can't help because
they don't know what it's
like to not know the notes.
You can try but it's a tune
you can't hear, so it's a
tune you'll never play.
The whistlers can never
know how hard it is to do
what you've never known.
In that, they know
nothing. "Just put your
lips together and blow."
It's just that simple and
just that hard.