

1943\*

WILLIAM HARMON

I read the book that says “1943” and am persuaded.

Then I read a decapitating review that says “not 1943” and am confused.

Then I read a denigrating reply to the review that says “1943” and am dismayed but reassured.

A detonating response to the reply to the review says “not 1943” and puts me back where I was in the second place.

Until a devastating rejoinder to the response to the reply to the review says “1943” and I am beginning to forget some  
parts of the point.

Whereupon a depilating witty riposte to the rejoinder to the response to the reply to the review says “not 1943 *at all.*”

How could I have ever thought such a thought?

You wouldn't catch me thinking that with a tin foot.

Year after next an article in *The Articulate Review* will lay the whole sorry affair out but radically misconstrue the original  
point.

I remember 1943. The penny changed awhile, the very penny.

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\*For debates inspired by this poem, please check the *Connotations* website at <http://www.connotations.de/debate/william-harmons-1943>.