


CARL SANDBURG

1878 — 1967

CHICAGO



C Hog Butcher
Stacker of
ation's Freight
ling: City of
wicked and
ted women
they tell me
true I have
ll again: A
reply is: O
ave seen the marks of wanton hunger: And having answered so I turn once
more to those who sneer at this my city: And I give them back the sneer and
say to them: Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud
to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning: Flinging magnetic curses amid the
toil of piling job on job: Here is a bold slugger set vivid against the little soft cities:
wilderness: Bareheaded: Shoveling: Wrecking: Planning: Building: Breaking: Rebuilding:
Under the smoke: Dust all over his mouth: Laughing with white teeth: Under the terrible bur
urden of destiny laughing as a young man laughs: Laughing even as an ignorant fighter lau
ghs who has never lost a battle: Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse: And
under his ribs the heart of the people: Laughing: Laughing the stormy: Husky:
th: Half naked: Sweating: Proud to be Hog Butcher: Tool Maker: Stacker of Wheat:
g daughter of Youth: Half naked: Sweating: Proud to be Hog Butcher: Tool Maker: Stacker of Wheat:
Player with Railroads
Freight Handler
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at io
n:

NOTE:

In the late 19th century Chicago pork packers created a labor intensive lightning fast disassembly line: The Union Stockyards routinely processed 5,000 or more pigs every day: Taking just 15 minutes to completely slaughter each pig: Hundreds of workers performed specialized tasks in the process: Hanging the live pig onto a chain by a hook in its leg: Clamping the pig's leg chain to a big wood wheel: As the pig rose screaming on the high turning wheel they slit its throat: Scalded it: Hooked it to a cable: Scraped it: Cleaned it: Washed it: Inspected it: De-gutted it: De-larded it: Decapitated it: Split it into parts: Then swept the few remaining bits off the floor to sell as Spam in a can: