

An angel critiques Caravaggio's *Saint Matthew and the Angel*

by [D. S. Martin](#) in the [April 21, 2021](#) issue

The Church of San Luigi dei Francesi, Rome

As rich as it is his painting's
misconceived
depicting what humanity's not able
to perceive

Overlook
the anachronisms of
latter-day bench & table
& replacing Matthew's parchment
with a book

Ignore
the appealing bedsheet draping the angel
who seems perplexingly suspended
from a ceiling hook & even the twisted angle
at which the writer must look

The inspiration that was given
isn't something he'd heard as if recited to him
word for word but what the altar piece alters
what troubles me most is would Heaven
merely send an angel
to do the work of the Holy Ghost?