

THE TERRORIZERS

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One Night in Balthazar By Fanny Howe

The hotel bar downstairs was dirty and dark and almost empty except for him whom I didn't know

I lost my balance because evil is aroused by absence

Outside on the island a brick city had grown up and old

A person could only nibble on its shadows

Where was my beloved?

The cornerstone was familiar but unrecognizable and I didn't understand why infinity

was seeping into my hair

Somebody said: "He's out of his bottle"

I guess it meant Temporarily out of service and empty.

But then there was Arsene beside the last remaining cabin wandering with his eyes on the camera Dynamite in his pocket and a piece of thread

to trap a rabbit.

Evil is a growing thing It has its own gravity and never answers to its name It is a hole into chaos. It is real

Arsene held me in his arms He was drunk as usual and his nipple smelled of rum

But still I loved him—loved him madly!—as if he was the one

DANA DEGIULIO (*CHICAGO HEIGHTS, 1978), lives and works in Brooklyn
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