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## *No Body but Yours*

Jude O. Mahony

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August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

<https://mythsoc.org/oms/oms-2023.htm>



*No Body but Yours*

# **No Body but Yours.**

by

Jude O. Mahony

I never fitted in.  
Working class androgynous.  
I won't bore you with the victim malarkey.  
The neglect. The beatings. The state care.  
Nor:  
The philosophy I read. The wild trips. My time within  
The sacred way.  
Just let it be read. That I was a  
variation across the matrix.  
A sociologist's dry nightmare.

Alleyway.  
In an abbreviated heroin induced waking dream.  
He appeared.  
A giant fellow wayfarer and thief.  
Offering a bed for the night.  
In the abscess of light, I followed.  
Hobbling, hypnotised by the steely glints from  
His butcher's scrubs.  
Welcomed inside.  
Pristine room, single wrought iron bed.  
Heaven sent, all for myself.  
No stinking shared dorm for me this night.

Devilish host.

There was nectar and strong cider. Followed by  
opium.

The half night we passed in elided morphemic  
whispers. The basic bone and sinew of things.  
Pared palaver.

To cut a long story short.  
I awoke in a sea of violent  
haemorrhaging blood.  
Legs stumped.  
White as a ghost.  
Full phantom pain.  
Stretched across the footboard  
My calfskin vellumed.  
Perfect diamond.  
Hand tapped in crimson  
Red.

Deconstructed you.  
Now beautifully haiku'd.  
Procrustes was 'ere.