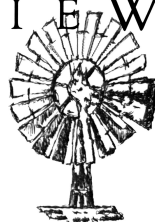


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Forever Story Time

John Grey

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Forever Story Time

by John Grey

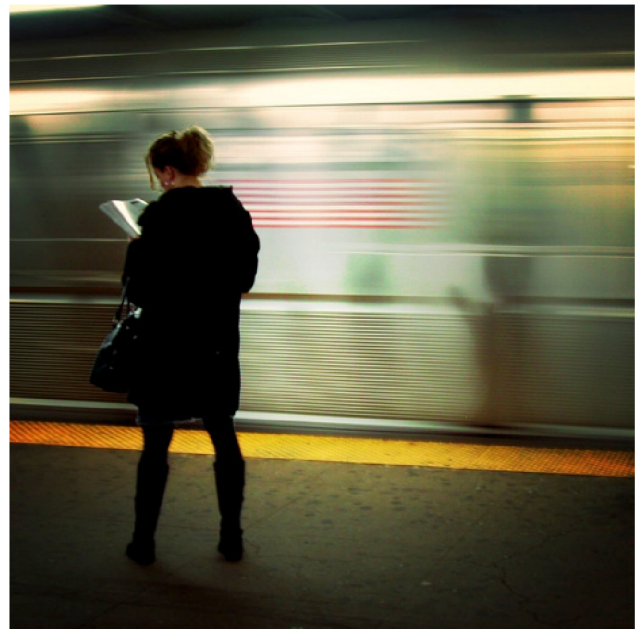
If a character's alive at the end of the story,
he's alive forever.

Oliver Twist is eternal in Dickens' last line,
Robinson Crusoe is as safe from death
as he is from one more deserted island stint.

And if you're in the middle of the story,
that's also your fate.

Sorry Romeo, there only is ever Juliet,
And young Jack Hawkins,
it's pirates and treasure from this day on.

I'm getting older,
but Steppenwolf is not.
There's an ache in my right shoulder.
I pick up Dumas
and, for all the constant clash of rapiers,
D'Artagnan sends his pain-free regards.



David Copperfeld is born ad infinitum.
He grows wherever we are in the novel.
Even those that pass on suddenly
live interminably on the previous page.

No wonder fading eyes
search out books.
The loveless read romances.
The bored, adventures.
The people who once were,
tales of those ones who can only ever be.

From the commuter train
to the hospital ward,
the temporary slip their bookmark
inside the pages of the everlasting.