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## Forty Nights Of Violence

Samuel Brock

*The College at Brockport*, sbroc1@brockport.edu

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Forty Nights Of Violence

I will never again  
crawl over the blood on the Hilton floor in Bulgaria  
to look over my marble balcony and  
smile about the mysteries of naked men and women.

I never had a booklet or an invitation from beautiful  
women to have enlightened and memorable evenings  
of sex or violence, standing in the middle of orange Madrid.

Since Los Angeles, I was never the same  
and privately cried over the many female scammers  
that ruined my unmeasurable talent and once full hairline.  
They dance with driving alcoholics,  
writing in their Rum Diaries, men who seek women,  
women who hide their addictions under  
tight shirts and tighter pants.

I once knew enlightened writers and belonged  
in Bland's household, discussing red wine and dark women  
while on a plane to Poland or Peru.  
Never again will I travel over oceans to music festivals  
or drink green tea under snowfall in mellow Japan.  
Never have I known an untroubled sleep, motionless,  
or undisturbed.

Never again will I wander into an old coffee shop,  
smelling of cinnamon and roaring with artful ambition  
while my hotel skies overhead, playing tennis  
with other loud buildings. I will never  
pass Tinsmith Street and hold memories of you  
at our long lost café where your mouth burned  
each time you forgot to hold the peppers. Burning  
my feet near the Tangiers or drink a fancy martini  
in their aqua bar at Turning Stone, pretending  
that when I spend money, I don't care. Nevermore  
will I watch the sphinx eclipse the sunset in Las Vegas  
and I will not travel through the dusk of the desert,  
mourning the loss of one of our greatest friends,  
crying all the way back to Los Angeles.

The ghetto alleyways of Atlantic City won't see my face  
ever again and I certainly won't travel Amtrak's rails  
to meet strangers for intimate meals through Kansas.

Forty Nights of Violence – Samuel Brock

I won't climb the Woodlawn staircase or meet you  
at the sliding glass door, listening for the gate to unlatch.  
I won't go live a month in France where Fitzgerald  
Met Hemingway and Dali met Picasso. I won't crack glass  
against my face in Thailand  
and won't cascade down Veil Mountain. Instead, I'll dream  
of you and your husband in Bali, while a skinny and smiling woman  
gives you directions to the Boreno Forests where painted  
men and women dance at your dinner table.

I won't go shopping for records on Sunset Boulevard, buy women's  
clothing on Melrose Avenue, and won't eat valet dinners  
in Malibu with regret. Brunette hair Thousand Oaks, a slim waist  
in Simi Valley, and an overdose in Westlake Village, I will remember  
you all. I won't teach writing in Agoura and won't stare  
at the undressed mother of the son I am writing with.  
No more argumentative and memorable summers, swimming  
with lovers and best friends.  
Nothing of myself, except in an urn of collected ashes.