

A FOOTNOTE TO SARTRE ON ABSENCE

(for Robin Brumby)

M.L. McCarthy

Absence, transparent shadow in time, in place,
Of that which is, out of that hour and space,
Is present everywhere that presence is not:
Weak, unimportant ghost; unless a hot
Desire or cringing fear of presence give
The salty cup nonentities gulp, and live.
Witness that woman, thoughtless set free,
Whose love, that vampire absence, feeds on me!

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