

# 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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