

GAINED IN TRANSLATION

By Scott Thomas Outlar

Suit and tie
bluesy jazz
burns bone deep
from center stage
in Toronto.

There is no use trying to talk
or get a word in edgewise
in this deafening den of fire and light.

The music
speaks a language
of its own
with an essence
that always
matters most.

The owner behind the bar
reminds me of a woman from Albania
that used to lie, "I love you,"
every evening
before we fell asleep
(Te dua shume).

The cocktail she brings
to our flimsy table
reminds me that true love

is still just one sip away
if you drink deeply
of life
without a chaser.

There will be poetry tomorrow.
There will be a stage of our own.
There will be a scene set in motion.
But for the moment
all the movement
is humming from a guitar
that learned how to weep
with the power of gentle chaos.

SACRIFICED AT THE ALTAR

I never expected
to place first
in your eyes

but I had pinned
all my dreams
on silver

REARVIEW

It was when
I finally realized
that there was nothing
left to lose
that I truly
began to live
in a state
of forgiveness

of course
it always sounds
so much simpler
upon reflection

and that is why
I try my best
to keep
these mirrors
clean

Bio

Scott Thomas Outlar hosts the site 17Numa.com where links to his published poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, reviews, live events, and books can be found. His work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net. Scott was a recipient of the 2017 Setu Magazine Award for Excellence in the field of literature.