The Body Variations

Robert Hahn

Follow this and additional works at: http://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1605

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
THE BODY VARIATIONS

1.
The body is a motel named
“The Temple”

2.
It is a friend
whose changes pain you

You decide you were wrong about him

3.
A cardsharp
with the longest career in the west

Nobody
wants him arrested
Everybody loves him
Everybody loses
Everybody always
wants a new deck

4.
It is the trip
you planned too long

They tell you the weather has never
been this bad

5.
The body is a temple
where Shriners and other
conventioneers with hats

besot themselves

They do not know what or when
they worship

But they do

Amen

Robert Hahn
6. The body is the very famous person you would love to meet

It turns out he lives on the floor below

But you never meet him

7. A town of wine and cheese not far from the spot where a lost party stopped to sing its last hymns

8. It is a writers' conference drowsy with advice

9. A friend who has lied about his past

Now you don't know what to believe

You realize how alike you are

10. The body is that extraordinary thing you find at the dump and take home excited

Your wife snorts at your folly
Your family and friends think you're a fool

When you lug it back the dump has become an antique store The owner buys it for a staggering sum

They love you at home because you are rich