

1975

Suite

John Ashbery

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ashbery, John. "Suite." *The Iowa Review* 6.1 (1975): 67-67. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1803>

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.

So far
Without dog or woman
So far alone, unasked.

Suite

The inert lifeless mass calls out into space.
Seven long years and the wall hasn't been built yet.
The crust thickens, the back of everything . . .
Clustered carillons and the pink dew of afterthoughts
Support it.

This was to be forgotten, eliminated
From history. But time is a garden wherein
Memories thrive monstrously until
They become the vagrant flowering of something else
Like stopping near the fence with your raincoat.

At night, orange mists.
The sun has killed a trillion of 'em
And it keeps stretching back, impossible planets.
How do I know? I'm lost. It says its name.
The blue-black message at the end of the garden
Is garbled. Meanwhile we're supposed to be here
Among pine trees and nice breaths of fresh air.

Snow was the last thing he'd expected,
Sun, and the kiss of far, unfamiliar lands,
Harsh accents though strangely kind
And now from the unbuttoned corner moving out,
Coming out, the postponed play of this day.
Astonishing. It really tells you about yourself,
The day made whole, the eye and the report together, silent.