The Map Room

Joshua Clover

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

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation

THE MAP ROOM

We moved into a house with 6 rooms: the Bedroom, the Map Room, the Vegas Room, Cities in the Flood Plains, the West, & the Room Which Contains All of Mexico. We honeymooned in the Vegas Room where lounge acts wasted our precious time. Then there was the junta’s high command, sick dogs of the Map Room, heel-prints everywhere, pushing model armies into the unfurnished West. At night: stories of their abandoned homes in the Cities in the Flood Plains, how they had loved each other mercilessly, in rusting cars, until the drive-in went under.

From the Bedroom we called the decorator & demanded a figurehead . . . the one true diva to be had in All of Mexico: Maria Felix [star of The Devourer, star of The Lady General]. Nightly in Vegas, “It’s Not Unusual” or the Sex Pistols medley. Nothing ever comes back from the West, it’s a one-way door, a one-shot deal,—the one room we never slept in together. My wife wants to rename it The Ugly Truth. I love my wife for her wonderful, light, creamy, highly reflective skin; if there’s an illumination from the submerged Cities, that’s her. She suspects me of certain acts involving Maria Felix, the gambling debts mount . . . but when she sends the junta off to Bed we rendezvous in the Map Room & sprawl across the New World with our heads to the West. I sing her romantic melodies from the Room Which Contains All of Mexico, tunes which keep arriving like heaven, in waves of raw data, & though I wrote none of the songs myself & can’t pronounce them, these are my greatest hits.