1998

Roman Poem

John Forbes

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

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.5046

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.
John Forbes (1950-1998)

Roman Poem

the rhythms of the Italian language
& the Belgian figure skating team
in town tonight are
partly what it’s like. As are
3 kiwi fruit ripening on a window sill
or sunlight through a bottle of light, red wine.

Here, plastic furniture seems like a good idea,
more natural on a marble chip
& concrete terrace, as though
what we treat as objects,
they take for granted
(hence “style”)
and how for us this word belongs in ads
or gets subsumed as technique—
casually kick tyre,
adjust slouch hat
or beneath the Duc
d’Aosta’s boast on
their monument,
NULLE RESISTE
AL BERSAGLIERI—
meaning they beat
the Pope—
want to spraypaint

Except the 6th Division, sport & don’t).
But if you leave out the injured & the rich,
it must have been something like this
those expatriates missed, who let
their eyes go hard & said
“I do not love Australia.”