

2008

Not a Very Close Encounter

Helen Queue

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Queue, Helen (2008) "Not a Very Close Encounter," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2008: Iss. 1, Article 82.
Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2008/iss1/82>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Messenger by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

NOT A VERY CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Helen Queue

the other day, I was in the public library, and there in a sticky red and chartreuse armchair I encountered nothing less and nothing sweeter than an angel. and one with whom I have had intimate acquaintance (when autumn on the Verrazano Bridge led to disaster). thick-fast with sleep; lanky wings tucked under, soft dirty-blonde head thrown aside, and his leather jacket was on the floor.

I crept a little closer just to see if it was him. I thought of waking him, but didn't touch him. everything was soft. halfway across the first floor I felt my heart sift into pieces like cotton, and knew my laughter was no better than a screen door. it did not really make things any darker, it could not keep the flies away.