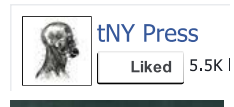




ironbound: irony in the flesh

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"ironbound – a blog is a love letter to the place where I grew up, and the account of my heartbreak at moving beyond it. [It] was written long before I left the Ironbound, and in hindsight I wonder if, even back then, I was trying to justify to myself the decision I had already made. [This is part of] a larger experimental work comprised of 72 scenes that are formatted to resemble entries in a blog. The full work is addressed to a personified version of the neighborhood where I grew up."



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you came to see me yesterday. snuck up on me asking, *what are you reading?* i looked up from the paperback and found you between me and the sun.

you sat down and slapped my thigh like an old friend. said, *i'm tired of this city.*

still looking at you i responded, "*what can she be, being what she is?*"

is that one of yours, you asked.

william butler, i started, but you didn't let me finish. started going off about all the corruption, the violence, the kids in a rush to grow up.

she doesn't make sense to me anymore, you added. *she isn't the same. she's not home anymore.*

and all i could think was how ironic this was. you, next to me, telling me how she isn't the same anymore and yet you in love.

you continued to speak but i was lost in the thoughts your words arose in me. at times i have read of stories that come after other stories, only those earlier stories weren't told because there wasn't that much to say. so i understand that perhaps i stretch you too thin. after all, i witnessed as you yourself did it just yesterday, sitting next to me in the afternoon sun going on and on about her.

but bearing all of you, isn't that how i loved you best? isn't that how we all love best, taking the very small and making it into a world, a dream, the universe?

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FICTION, LOST, TIMOTHY WALDRON, TRAVEL WRITING

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