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*vintage*

## **Vespers**

preface;

Tronny and Dick who are featured in this poem were a homosexual couple who were friends of my parents (in a time before gays were accepted more freely in American society) who would throw cocktail parties at intervals through out the calendar year. They lived in a charming apartment over a liquor store (Tenley Liquors) in Tenleytown, Washington, D.C. Tronny worked as a music teacher at the National Cathedral School and it was unclear what Dick did, but he could have been a minor alcoholic by trade although he was always a well mannered southern gentleman. My father Joe was informally known as the Mayor of Tenleytown. Battersea Dogs Home is an English home for abandoned dogs, a halfway house where dogs are kept until good homes are found for them. Ceasar, utters "The die is cast" and crosses the river Rubicon from Gaul with his legions to march on Rome, the dice favoured this move (which was in defiance of the Senate) and the rest is history. That's all you need to know.

hardened by life on the surface  
but vulnerable through all of the senses  
make this fortress penetrable  
Battersea Dogs Home is accepting nominees  
to those who want to find better homes  
coining insight by the bundles

like angels in fur  
they trundle  
atmospheric static  
writhe  
in infancy  
twigs and leaves  
thrown in the wind  
breathe no tell tale  
air of those who have sinned  
repented and second hand rented  
or leased

the premises above the liquor store  
where Dick and Tronny  
hold sway with a grand piano  
and double dutch doors  
seeing in to them always meant  
a good day

puppy love  
triumphs in the face of contingency

we know the dice are soon rolled  
as we await to cross the Rubicon  
in a restless hold  
hardened by life on the surface  
but vulnerable through all of the senses  
make this fortress penetrable  
is my prayer at Vespers  
this evening

the apache kid

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