



PAUL MONETTE AND ROGER HORWITZ  
*Monte Oliveto*  
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# LOVE ALONE

18 ELEGIES FOR ROG

by Paul Monette

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## NO GOODBYES

for hours at the end I kissed your temple stroked  
your hair and sniffed it it smelled so clean we'd  
washed it Saturday night when the fever broke  
as if there was always the perfect thing to do  
to be alive for years I'd breathe your hair  
when I came to bed late it was such pure you  
why I nuzzle your brush every morning because  
you're in there just like the dog the night  
we unpacked the hospital bag and he skipped  
and whimpered when Dad put on the red  
sweater *Cover my bald spot will you*  
you'd say and tilt your head like a parrot  
so I could fix you up always always  
till this one night when I was reduced to  
*I love you little friend here I am my*  
*sweetest pea* over and over spending all our  
endearments like stray coins at a border  
but wouldn't cry then no choked it because  
they all said hearing was the last to go  
the ear is like a wolf's till the very end  
straining to hear a whole forest and I  
wanted you loping off whatever you could  
still dream to the sound of me at 3 P.M.  
you were stable still our favorite word  
at 4 you took the turn WAIT WAIT I AM  
THE SENTRY HERE nothing passes as long as  
I'm where I am we go on death is  
a lonely hole two can leap it or else  
or else there is nothing this man is mine  
he's an ancient Greek like me I do  
all the negotiating while he does battle  
we are war and peace in a single bed  
we wear the same size shirt it can't it can't  
be yet not this just let me brush his hair

it's only Tuesday there's chicken in the fridge  
from Sunday night he ate he slept oh why  
don't all these kisses rouse you I won't won't  
say it all I will say is goodnight patting  
a few last strands in place you're covered now  
my darling one last graze in the meadow  
of you and please let your final dream be  
a man not quite your size losing the whole  
world but still here combing combing  
singing your secret names till the night's gone