

# New Mexico Quarterly

---

Volume 18 | Issue 2

Article 8

---

1948

## Under

Roy Marz

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Marz, Roy. "Under." *New Mexico Quarterly* 18, 2 (1948). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol18/iss2/8>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Quarterly* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

## UNDER

Creep nakedly between the sleeping seals  
Now that the silly moon is turning under.  
Trust that the gulls and dreamy snakes will feel  
Your footprint echo only as little thunder.

Lanterns above. They found your note on the pillow.  
They grapple with hooks. They comb the reef and island,  
A diligent boy has found your clothes in the willow:  
But the seals and the moon and the gulls and the snakes are silent.

These are remembered stars that dapple your loin  
And caught in your armpits weeds rise up like wings;  
Leered by the cuttlefish, ogled by eels we join  
The subterranean green of secret things

Down where the quireme settles in the sand,  
Down where the Viking skulls converse in bubbles,  
Deeper than these I lead you by the hand  
Into a nether vastness no fin troubles.

So. After the green of quiet the purple of cold  
And past the purple the black that curtains the end:  
There is a knife to slit it, and you hold  
That knife between your teeth if you are my friend.

Either on hilt or throat the finger fastens.  
Naked or armed you came for this endeavor.  
And we drown double, and now, and as assassins,  
Or cut our passage singly, and forever.

ROY MARZ