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Don Russ

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# In the French Quarter

by Don Russ

## *for Brent and Angela*

We were talking about the stench  
of the underworld—piss and ancient drains,  
spilled beer—when we passed a wall  
spilling yellow roses.

We'd just stepped down to cross  
the street and we came back. It was a rose  
we couldn't name: little yellow clusters  
clean against the sky.

That evening we had our drinks  
in the courtyard, and white-winged moths  
came out for the whiteness  
of the moon.

