

JUNE

Fighting Dictators

I loved the countryside—we both did.
I picked flowers, you picked mushrooms
and punched me with your steel man's fist, that shook and shaped my world.
You struggled to be gentle—tortured by the pain inside.
But you could take grit from a child's eye more softly than any mother.
Through burning hatred, I loved you still.
Perhaps you loved me too—despite your rage-twisted face.
Love, I know, was tough—alien—to a slave branded with searing iron.
The war damaged us both, you 21, strafed on the beach at Dunkirk.
Me fighting Hitlers all my life.

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Bob Goupillot currently teaches Counselling and Psychotherapy at Edinburgh University. He also works as a relationship counsellor and individual counsellor. In recent years he has been involved in developing a Restorative Relational Therapy approach to working with couples where there is domestic abuse. Bob has written poetry since his very early teens but this is the first that he has submitted for publication. Bob's research interests include the relationship between counselling and wider social change. He is also interested in work that promotes a positive, de-alienating masculinity and femininity. His main philosophical influences/interests are Marxism, ecology, object relations, socialist feminism, and anthropology, in particular myths and rituals.

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