

Reverdy Road

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also by Simon Smith

Books

Fifteen Exits (Waterloo Press)

Pamphlets

Juicy Fruit (Gratton Street Irregulars)

Night Shift (Prest Roots)

LEXICON (Form Books)

North Star (Poetical Histories)

For Children

A Fresh Eye . . . (Hayward Gallery)

Works of Translation

Notice to Quit by Gaius Valerius Catullus (Verisimilitude)

Reverdy Road

SIMON SMITH



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For Flick, Stanley and Dorothy

i.m. Keith Pickard 1951-2002

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I Reverdy Road

A Short Poem about Gossip

That what-not shall not
Be passing my lips I warrant you

Will know I was just shuffling my feet
And then you swayed along with dance

Steps – that is everything in a train
as if I were drunk in charge of your love

Which you could mistake for you
Are not her or you are not him or her

But I am the clothes I'm standing up in
When you had said no phone calls at work

Against which I daren't chalk up
This email herein for your attention

Hair's Breadth

Let's sort out the men from the goats
The women from the dogs I mean
The men from the dogs the girls
From the goats, or is it the dogs
From the whatever kicks and bites

I'd walk to the station to catch a train
To take a cold to Town which proves
Illness travels at walking-speed
Here and now and travel it will
But next time you get a little older