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In Memoriam: River Phoenix, 1970-93

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In Memoriam: River Phoenix, 1970-1993

There's something poetic in vampirism
and everything vampiric in poetry.
And we're sick of pasty, silent Nosferatu's
sliding across our screen between adverts
for Garden Weasels. Images of blood
and fangs in black and white stir no terrors
in our living rooms, bi-dimensional.
But the stretching shadows of hungry souls
crouched in the darkness of doorways make us
shiver, scream, as they die, minute-by-minute
aching for needles and dust. We shudder
at the arms of our lovers, white and bare,
as they reach across the cypher of the sheets,
touch-possessed, shadow-clad, and ravenous.

-Kirstin Rogers '94