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Looking for Serge Gainsbourg

Catherine Cole

University of Wollongong, ccole@uow.edu.au

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Lying
on one of the graves
you kiss
the day-moon

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Catherine Cole

Professor Catherine Cole is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Wollongong. She has published novels and two non-fiction books. She is the editor of the anthology, *The Perfume River: Writing from Vietnam* and co-editor with McNeil and Karaminas of *Fashion in Fiction: Text and Clothing in Literature, Film and Television*, (Berg UK and USA, May 2009). She also has published poetry, short stories, essays and reviews.

Looking for Serge Gainsbourg

Lying
  on one of the graves
  you kiss
  the day-moon
(fading above bare branches).
Lover don’t catch a cold.
Don’t scandalise the tourists.
Don’t upset the cemetery attendants,
the grieving relatives.
This hunt
for Serge
is no laughing matter
I laugh
at the moon
  at your lips
  at the cemetery’s cats
  making a wide
    arc around
  a crazy man
in a bright red scarf
a woman in stitches.

‘Go,’
  you say
  ’Allez trouvez l’homme.’
So I go
  with my map
  my gloved hands
    dusted with snow

*Je t’aime.*
'Serge?' I ask an old man
watering,
    'Où et Serge?'
'Tout près.'
He is close
(a little stream of water, a bare shrub, surely not lilac)
'Y'a pas de soleil sous la terre,' the man sings
    Everyone's a fan.

Près
And on Serge's grave I find:
a love letter,
four metro tickets
and scrawled on the back of a café tab,
    moi je ne tiens a rien
    plus que toi.
    manque de toi
    je suis la moitié fou
and a
    small smooth grey pebble

to take back to you.