

Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 11 | Issue 1

Article 65

June 2011

Tunnel vision

Mohamad Atif Slim

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

Recommended Citation

Slim, Mohamad Atif (2011) "Tunnel vision," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 11: Iss. 1, Article 65.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol11/iss1/65>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Slim: Tunnel vision

**TUNNEL
VISION**



**MOHAMAD
ATIF SLIM**

Did our eyes cry
shrilly to each other
in the empty rush
of a midnight train
when I tried to study
the large space
between us—I in
the back seat, you
in front? Did we
each select our carriage
with purpose, or is this
manifest unanticipated?
We both stared into
the inky glass next
to our heads, leaning
against it as though
it was a shoulder.
In the livid
city transit there is
little time for two—
was the opportunity
lost to us before
it was even found?
No, we were in love,
suddenly. It was the
tick-tock beast of

Published by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The

Slim

150

the other, fear
beating that kept us
apart, the organ of fear's
sermon: it's better
to be right and have
missed, than wrong
and regretful. Did I see
a tear collect in you?
Rest, deep, on this
subterranean journey,
and weep—our lives but
a cold, hard chain
of coincidences, an endless
tube of chance and
serendipity, just
out of reach.