

1941

## Grammar of Memory

Edwin Honig

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Honig, Edwin. "Grammar of Memory." *New Mexico Quarterly* 11, 3 (1941). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol11/iss3/26>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Quarterly by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

## LA BELLE DAME

Always there is what cuts the face:  
 a small voice full of glass  
 a bloodshot European garden  
 menageries of silence full of wounded grace.

Always a moment falls between  
 the handshake and the lost lion grin  
 love's last under-water bout  
 and the sharply stamped enamel dream.

What lies aching in the room  
 is the white command sent too soon.

## THE ENEMY

There are no stones for him.  
 He teaches stones how to lie, not to rot.  
 He teaches gardens how to grow around them.  
 For him there are no bones.  
 He teaches drought the secret of perpetuation.  
 How to skin a man alive.  
 He is the hand at every throat  
 —and dies by strangulation!

## GRAMMAR OF MEMORY

If the light fail  
 redeem it—  
 out of no book,  
 out of no false stare,  
 out of no hardihood  
 for racing the common horse;  
 but out of the punctual worm,  
 crashing the coffin lid,  
 whose great electric head,  
 breaking the hoggish herd,  
 stirs those long wide-world  
 river bells.

EDWIN HONIG