

## **This Love**

I enclose my hand  
around the blade of you,  
your serrated edge slicing flesh,  
releasing blood  
to flow from my hard palm  
to my already scarred wrists.

But I refuse to let go,  
my love for you  
compelling me to endure your edge,  
no matter the cost,  
no matter the pain;

I already know  
I cannot live  
without you, just as I know  
I cannot exist  
without the scars that tattoo my body  
and my being.

*Edward Lee's poetry, short stories, non-fiction and photography have been published in magazines in Ireland, England and America, including The Stinging Fly, Skylight 47, Acumen, The Pangolin Review, Iceberg Tales and Smiths Knoll. His debut poetry collection Playing Poohsticks On Ha'Penny Bridge was published in 2010. He is currently working towards a second collection. He also makes musical noise under the names Ayahuasca Collective, Lewis Milne, Orson Carroll, Blinded Architect, Lego Figures Fighting, and Pale Blond Boy. For more: <https://edwardmlee.wordpress.com>.*

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