

Cole Alvis

Excerpt from an early draft of the play *Body Politic* by Nick Green:

*Victor stands centre. The company sits around the periphery of the stage.*

VICTOR

I was sitting at Queen's Park. It was about 4 in the afternoon in '84. Me and someone were talking, I think my beautiful Valerie or, yes. It was Valerie. And she and I were talking about books, high art, and music, of course, but mostly about poetry. Her straight but loving ears didn't know most the homo poets, and to my horror, she did not know the works of Allen Ginsberg. So I set out upon her to quote like mad! I quote from Howl, I spoke of A Supermarket in California. And I ended with my most favourite; "Concentrate on what you want to say to yourself and your friends. Follow your inner moonlight; don't hide the madness. You-" and then I blanked. I stood and tried again. "Don't hide the madness. You-" Fuck me darling! I forget the rest! I try once more, loud, flamboyant! "Concentrate on what you want to say to yourself and your friends. Follow your inner moonlight; don't hide the madness. You-

you-" and then this voice cuts me off, this soft, male voice; "You say what you want to say when you don't care who's listening." I look over and see this 40 year old man. He has glasses and is a little bald. He smiles and I laugh and say thanks. And we have this moment of eye contact between one another, it was only a second and then he kept walking, but this moment was electricity. It was power. It was fraternity. It was sameness. I don't know where all this homo stuff is going, or how it'll get there, but nothing will be more powerful than that shared spark.

*pause*

I'm going away now, my dears, I am going away. Sadly, and I don't know if you've noticed, but I am not so well. Brian and I have spoken, and it'll be best for us all if I go to live with my mom in Victoria. She's lovely, really a very lovely woman, so. So yes. I'm not actually, I don't want to stay here and chat. I think I shall just go the way I came. Suddenly. Gently. And always with a smile.