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Isaiah Hull



Isaiah Hull was co-commissioned by Manchester Literature Festival and Manchester Libraries' Creative Spaces to produce this poem, inspired by time spent as poet in residence in Longsight during summer 2019 as part of the Rewriting Longsight project. The poem was premiered at a special event at Longsight Library on 11 October 2019 as part of Manchester Literature Festival.

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Go
Go again
Smooth
Smooth without
Bite
Biting is
Smile but
Smile without
Kind of
Meaning it
Mean

On Dickenson and Birch
Polygons overt
Ta'wiz between my teeth
You are teaching me wrong

Smoky imam
allah wrote in his palm
the son of the off-license
sold me Islam
I have burn to be so
Early me in now

Antidote
Asda closed
Stanley Grove
Anglo-saxon won't answer phone
As above sober lows
Higher highs
And it goes down

The fire fight
fails
Filing my
Nails

Liaison like
Crumbs
Plied prom night young
day long light-veil on lunge
Leave leeway for the drums?

No, you can play once I'm done

diminuendo of djinn
madina mendi a crescendo of kin
jagua fruits one sin

Nawaab sliced at the midriff prostrated like napkin
soft favours of fasting
frost flakes
white aspen
I've been
on my deen
doesn't trust Ardwick
fold saree with practice
kala kuti my first day
go far with my accent
kufar Khalil jibran bilal was a black man

Go
Go away
Wide
Widen out
Fate
Fatigue on your face
By the tree kneeling near Anson Estate
is praying with Venus
Nazarene on nimbus
I want you to see me
the 50 between us
Ta'wiz between my teeth
A verse she will not read me

grandmothers gather like grammies
funeral director unhappy
coyote in Crowcroft
Apollo post oxygen
church in the hospital
middle men women on either end
the difference is equal
mosque on a needle
hate stacks a haystack of evil
Stockport Road like a keyhole
only opens for gossip
home office no allah hafiz
white people

LYC deceitful
Aziz Ibrahim signing vinyl

dilate dial tone typhoon
mango halves brassiere
Keep the song light and loose
go
go again
smooth
off the 1 9 2
kool runnings life contracts
you and me won't last
duty free phone tap
supersede brown boy beemer eid BMEs no tax

Go
Go and score up scratch
my summer at Hathersage Road
in the Haver age with damp sleeves
salaam and cilantro leaves
swing on the fences
porch lit with pensive
double-dutches rhododendron
folds over me with low suspension
mr compensator poses question
Isaiah lies in bed with
a liar lies for friendship
who stood in the tally
who fell ill against it
what will you bring me for breakfast but slander
hide me in king herod's census don't answer
the door wood a dancer it swings in the twenties a day hasn't ended until it's been
asked

Go
Go sardine the markets
a cash machine munches
a junkie with crutches
a card shark Somali
sugar feet young of three pulling umer g come look at these
Gujarati gold garments
Kashmiri no karma
dhal saag bhaji is bartered
wise pharmacy iftar with brick in
one bedroom apartments
halal and haram go halves on a habit

We

Go

Go again

Smooth

Smooth without

Bite

Biting is

Smile but

Smile without

Kind of

Meaning it

Mean, Ta'wiz between my teeth, a verse I cannot read.