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## There Emigrate Bullets

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# The *Word Hoard*

*/wɔːrd/hôrd/* n. 1. A journal open to all Arts and Humanities scholars.

## There Emigrate Bullets

**Andy Verboom\***

There emigrate bullets: steel grapes filling hell.  
Civilians sing, valleys snore, telephones rust,  
history's unmoored, and heaven's svelte.

Bereave Neapolitan language of its melt  
else skeptics ask, "Men seize, grown library-y! Must  
there emigrate bullets?" Small grapes volleying hell  
wearily creep, eyeless in bowels. Imps' fiddles  
—for a moment alive—spawn off the mole-lust  
hailstorm, rise coarse, more synthy than dressed well.

Storm, ammo! Dance in Adam's syncrude asphodels!  
Spring specious tunes! Meander a Venice of dust!  
Wear fur! Dig opiates! Steal! Grope! Fill in hell!

Deterrence mounts, wagging Thor-hammerly tonsils  
and bare knuckles, retreats via a clopping, chintz beast.  
Currents tear, reefs are drifting, empire's autumnal.  
Expired edicts, dozing accents, younger selves  
stub on the historian's boringest truss.  
There emigrate bullets till grapes fill in hell  
and *sorry's* slick tangles prove everything's well.

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*\*Andy Verboom's poetry is forthcoming or has recently appeared in Vallum, The Puritan, Arc Poetry Magazine, Contemporary Verse 2, and BafterC. He is the author of Tower (Anstruther Press, 2016) and co-author (with David Huebert) of Full Mondegreens, winner of the 2016 Frog Hollow Press Chapbook Contest. He is also Content Editor-in-Chief at Word Hoard. For more, visit [andyverboom.com](http://andyverboom.com).*