

Mark Lamoureux

Metropolitan

A city remembers & forgets.
A city is a lover not a wife.
A city is built buildings, a plan
that always goes wrong.
A city is a true god—unforgiving
& lax. A city accepts, just as
it repels, a waterspout, a storm
of unwritten diaries; it records
with bruises, with bites, with afflictions:
rats & bugs, bright signs
that mean nothing, streets
that go nowhere. A city
convulses in the rain,
a baby, an old man, never
an angel: those celestial majorettes
twirling their flaming swords
in front of the winter garden.
The city casts its milky blind eyes
to heaven but touches
mortar & skin, black wine
& a million eggs, frying,
in the morning—a labyrinth
like the inner ear; a million
is not enough, the city eats
numbers like candy, the candy
in a thousand bodegas, crinkling wrappers'
snare drums, a quartet
in the small hours. A city
does not grow old
with you, it waits
for your children to come

& pretend you've never
even walked its streets.

Mark Lamoureux is the author of four full-length collections of poems, *It'll Never Be Over for Me* (Black Radish Books, 2016) *29 Cheeseburgers + 39 Years* (Pressed Wafer, 2013), *Spectre* (Black Radish Books, 2010) and *Astrometry Organon* (BlazeVox, 2008). A fifth book, *Horologion*, is forthcoming from Poet Republik, Ltd. in 2019. His work has most recently appeared in *Fence*, *Dream Pop* and *Fourteen Hills*. He lives in New Haven, CT with his wife and daughter and is an assistant professor of English at Housatonic Community College.