

TOTES **HEAVY** BURDEN

By Joe Sonnenblick

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry editor Hezekiah writes: This poem has such a curious impact on me: We wind up right inside Sonnenblick's head and it's scribed so beautifully. For me, he is a stranger in a small local bar seeing a not so incidental commemorative plaque, sentimental to few and representative of many, and writes to the family this not-so- anonymous ode... ”from Brooklyn, Salud.”*

Totes Heavy Burden

I put down my drink,
The sweat rolling off the glass in this hot room.
Reflections of a walk I took in Greenpoint
Passing attached houses full of mirth, truth, rape, excoriation,
All closed doors.
A window held a plaque for Stanley,
A Stanley I didn't get to know
1948-1969 the inscription read “Always our son and brother”
Vietnam.
I can only hope it was quick, Stanley
All those guys and gals
All those innocent Vietnamese.
This is my proclamation
This my cavalcade
Fifty-One years later,
Someone remembered
Someone cared.
Thanks Stanley from Brooklyn,
Salud.

THE POET SPEAKS: *‘Totes Heavy Burden’ was inspired by one of the oddest weekends of the year. I felt a kinship to a person I'd never met, and Stanley who was real, who met his demise in this horror show of a war. It all came rushing to*

me when I saw the plaque hanging in that lone window. Stylistically I am influenced by Anne Waldman, Robert Creeley, Louise Gluck, Charles Bukowski, and Richard Brautigan respectively. Poetry is important because it feeds something that the normalcy of life cannot nourish. I write because I have to and that's the truth. I've been consistently writing since I was sixteen years old, and I'm realizing that poetry is also the discovery of something new every single day.

AUTHOR'S BIO: My name is Joe Sonnenblick. I'm a born and raised Brooklynite who has been featured in multiple E-magazines such as "The Reject" and "Citizen Brooklyn".

I have read up and down the east coast including being featured at the poets house in Tribeca.

I believe in plain speaking as a poet, and not mucking up the work by trying to please others. Big fan of humanity.