
POETRY | FALL 2014

John Forbes Nash, Jr.¹

By Eleanor Levine

He didn't like Jews
who studied and taught
with him, and was also not
fond of mathematicians,
but among the obscure group
dotting the universe with logic
across the blackboard—devising
game theories in a cosmos
along Santa Monica beaches
while cruising Greek-looking
boys and a girl physics major
and eventually descended into
schizophrenia in a community of
iron-pressed rugby shirts
where the firestorm in his
mind released Communist spies
in capes masquerading as integers
through loops and negatives of
neurons in the thunder which
transgressed humanity in vulgar
speeches crisscrossing with
pills until God threw an
ordinal and he returned a kiss.

¹ John Forbes Nash, Jr. (1928-2015) was an American mathematician whose works in game theory, differential geometry, and partial differential equations have provided insight into the factors that govern chance and events inside complex systems in daily life; he suffered from schizophrenia.

Eleanor Levine's work has appeared in Fiction, The Evergreen Review, The Denver Quarterly, as well as Downtown Poets (anthology), The Wall Street Journal, Barely South Review, Cigale Literary Review and The Litterateur (UK). She received her MFA in Creative Writing from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA.

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