

The Pilgrim Prince

by [Evelyn Hooven](#) (April 2021)



Alex, Alex Katz, 1970

You, Psychiatrist,
Your skis
And tennis courts
Our nightmares
And stammers—
Our wanting to choose
Waiting in secret
To be chosen:
This fragile animal
Ghostly or real
Was never the Princess . . .

You with your suntanned face
Exemplary fitness
Voice trained by tape
Refined by one-way mirrors
Expect us to call you Prince
Precursor of cure.
But the one whose home
Is thought or dream
Or quest—the Pilgrim Prince
Himself—never was you.

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Evelyn Hooven graduated from Mount Holyoke College and received her M.A. from Yale University, where she also studied

at The Yale School of Drama. A member of the Dramatists' Guild, she has had presentations of her verse dramas at several theatrical venues, including *The Maxwell Anderson Playwrights Series* in Greenwich, CT (after a state-wide competition) and *The Poet's Theatre* in Cambridge, MA (result of a national competition). Her poems and translations from the French and Spanish have appeared in *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, *ART TIMES*, *Chelsea*, *The Literary Review*, *THE SHOp: A Magazine of Poetry* (in Ireland), *The Tribeca Poetry Review*, *Vallum* (in Montreal), and other journals, and her literary criticism in Oxford University's *Essays in Criticism*.

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