

The Venomous Peace

by [John Grey](#) (September 2024)



The West (Matthew Wong, 2017)

The message comes through.

He's dying and I need to make my peace with him.

It sounds more to me like

he's dying

and I need to broker a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis,

or find a cure for cancer,

or climb Mount Everest barefoot,

or win the men's triathlon at the Olympic games,

or leap a tall building in a single bound,

or top the New York Times Best Sellers List with

a book of poetry,

or land a job as CEO of a Fortune 500 company,

or cross the Atlantic in a rowboat –

the list goes on and on

though I am the only one working on it.

Everyone else says,

he's frail and he's regretful.

So why not find me a frail, regretful, cobra.

I'll take it in hand.

We'll kiss and make it up.

[Table of Contents](#)

John Grey is an Australian poet, US resident, and has recently been published in *New World Writing*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and *Lost Pilots*. His latest books, *Between Two Fires*, *Covert*, and *Memory Outside the Head* are available through Amazon. He has work upcoming in *California Quarterly*, *Birmingham Arts Journal*, *La Presa*, and *Shot Glass Journal*.

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