

## God, the Sestina

*With a nod to A.E. Stallings*

In the beginning a finished god  
scintillated. Forsaken by a little tin god  
I mirrored the golden face of a god  
-dess—‘Bless him, Holy Mother of God...’  
Five years ruffled like a blushing god  
-etia. I embodied the flower of god.

I was seven when a song by God  
-ley and Creme cried out to me. God  
knows I tried to be a real boy—a god  
of Four’N Twenty pies—but my ideal god  
was quiche. At eleven I put my trust in God  
but kept my powder dry. The rapt ‘God?’

that annunciates ‘Like A Prayer’—a god  
-send for me. I uncovered a Young God  
Records cassette and the Voice of God  
at Rare Groove Records—I flapped like a god  
-wit. When I hit seventeen I went to God  
-’s Waiting Room with a fellow God

-fearing queer, encountered a Greek god  
who threshed me for seven hours on a God  
-forsaken snakewood floor—I roared like God  
-zilla, possessed drugs like U-God  
until I found, in downward dog, god.  
In the park I scanned Gwen Harwood’s ‘God

who goes’ and Van Gogh’s Son of God.  
A man who split the green earth of God  
amid Pride once transmitted ‘AIDS is God  
-’s way of weeding His garden’. *God!*  
It was harder than the back of God  
-’s head, my last partner’s white-knuckle god.

Björk, too, sings about a hand, and zygod  
-actyls. Circular, clear-eyed acts of God?  
I’ve survived two. I make a green god  
-dess smoothie every morning. The God  
of Gloom is just like heaven. I feel God  
is a DJ / Clapton is God (~~Ablett is God~~)

—God, I wanted to be a Fender god.  
O to crossover like God Shammgod!  
One day I’ll go to Göd, so help me God.

Note: 'the Voice of God' refers to Steve Sutherland's November 10, 1984 *Melody Maker* review of Cocteau Twins' *Treasure* ('surely this band is the voice of God'); 'God's Waiting Room' was one despicable nickname of an Oxford St, Sydney gay pub frequented in the '90s by some men dying of AIDS-related illnesses; 'God who goes' is from Gwen Harwood's 'Bone Scan'; American Baptist minister Pat Robertson, who died in June (Pride Month) 2023, infamously remarked 'AIDS is God's way of weeding His garden'