

TYLER PATTON

# POEM PENETRATED BY DEREK JARMAN

*after Diane Seuss*

yesterday you wrote

tomorrow

*black with age*

today—after boy and before

the virus

buy soup

*a selection of soups*

if the boy shed the antler

it seems likely

you will die

you do not know

because of the way

I will never suck your cock

who sucked your cock

who sucked the cock of a

man

who sucked your cock

I do not know if you have

anyone but

you do not miss family

*as I sweat it out in the early hours, a "guilty victim" of the scourge, I want to bear witness how happy I am, and will be until the day I die, that I was part of the hated sexual revolution; and that I don't regret a single step or encounter I made in that time; and if I write in the future with regret, it will be a reflection of a temporary indisposition*

*saw a naked boy marble white in the moonlight lying  
in the cleft of an oak tree*

you will find an *antler*, coal

*antler*—you celebrate three years with

you do not use the word celebrate but you do

I do not know your viral load

I do not know

but

you've had three years to know

you do not know that you will have five more

today my mother will ask for the epidural

time does not work

I do not know if I will suck the cock of a man

I do not know if I will suck the cock of a man

but it seems likely

infected

in three days you will write that

today I will be born

## NOTE

The italicized portions are excerpts from Derek Jarman's *Modern Nature*.