



VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Scholars Compass

Mighty Pen Project Anthology & Archive

Mighty Pen Project

2017

The Other Side of the Wall

Ted S. Owens

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/mighty_pen_archive



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

© The Author(s)

Downloaded from

https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/mighty_pen_archive/14

This 1961-1980 Army is brought to you for free and open access by the Mighty Pen Project at VCU Scholars Compass. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mighty Pen Project Anthology & Archive by an authorized administrator of VCU Scholars Compass. For more information, please contact libcompass@vcu.edu.

“The Other Side of the Wall” Ted S. Owens

From jungle’s depth ghostly shadows emerge
and gather timidly on its outer edge. Halted by
a granite perimeter, they sway and peer as if
sensing something on the other side faint in
their memory. They follow the wall, groping
their way on worn paths, scanning for cracks
and feeling for soft spots. But the wall is
solid and unyielding. Forlorn of hope, a
corporate moan like a whispered dirge drifts in
the humidity. Vague faces portray a semblance
of youthfulness but the eyes are hollow and
lifeless, like those of old prisoners worn down
from bearing too long the burden of despair.
The wall seems to call, and in eerie loyalty
they answer. But theirs is a tormented
faithfulness, driven by dread and fear. Once
full circle, they trickle back into the jungle
and fade into its apathetic embrace. Until
summoned again, they sit at old blood-stained
places to remember, and weep.