An Eye for an Eye

after Simone de Beauvoir

Anne Vickery

Freedom belies reciprocity. This, lovers know.
Some say her head was shaved to stave off murder,
a kindness of sorts.
Vengeance calls for the collaborator
to experience her own ambiguity
decamped as subject visibly wracked or unwomaned.
Oholah, too, was once caressed by foreign hands.
Paris lays bare the ancient crime of being-in-common.
Seduced by aesthetics the punished example
After paradox there is only theory, to fail at splitting hairs.