

No One Need to Know

(Rewrite, 2023)

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Flares drifting, sputtering, flaming out...
Another Brother Falls away.
New sizzle sputters and
seesaws into the night.

*Melancholy... sad—
stifled tears I'll admit.
Fewer now our Brotherhood,
Though Stronger we still get.*

We guard 111's growing fame, as
Three Soldiers guard The Wall's Names.
Who will take Life's Point for these fallen
men and guide to the other shore?

*Robber-dream does it matter to you,
if they held back the clashing tide
against perimeter's wire, or led us
through night's riotous-fracas—
death a misstep away?*

My war over and I came home,
greeted with hostile boos and mock-hooahs.
Alone I kept my angry-peace—
afraid, if I should not.

*Years-round night spins its tales of dark mêlées
when sappers slammed the wire and
Rockets streaked the clouds.
My war forgotten; no one needs know.*

A wife.
Kids...
Grandkids too;
Weekends with family, barbeques and play.
All in all life is good and merry as can be.

*Reaper treads my mind again—
gorged-swilled with dream's-blood,
sated as can be—awaits the next
slaughter with a quenched narcissistic-
yawn.*