

# ODE TO THE HEARTBREAK KID SHAWN MICHAELS, KICKING RIC FLAIR IN THE FACE FOR THE LAST TIME

BY TYLER KING

and what a gift it must be / to become a legend /  
for the way your sweat glistens / under floodlights /  
or how you can coax a man's blood out / until there is nothing left /  
a mother could recognize / I love you / I'm sorry /  
the night splits in half / snarling and feral /  
howling for her wounded sons /  
I wish I could stay here / in the denouement /  
the moment before the music plays / where there is nothing but a man /  
and another man and a river of gold / between us and sometimes /  
it feels like / all there is is waiting for the hammer to drop / and sometimes /  
it feels like nobody will remember us when we are dead / there was that night /  
you turned over in bed / slick with sweat and fighting for every breath /  
and said tell me we both survive this / and I wonder if Shawn Michaels /  
when he cradled Flair's head in his arms /  
thought about who would lay the last violence at his own feet /  
which partner would stand across him / apologizing /  
with a mouth full of blood / drowned out by the arena crowd /  
I wonder if / when he was kissing the hair of this man he loved /  
he ever wished God would find his own gravediggers

