



www.abridged.zone

Sam Furlong's first book will be published by Macha Press in 2025.



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland



funding
the arts

Three Experiments in Self Defence After Johnny Knoxville

Hit me, and the body is thrown like a different body
Against a trampoline. Propeller plane arms and hot
Rose eyes, he falls to his knees one at a time. The interval
Between pain and laughter is not so small. The gap between
Suffering and ecstasy is visible only on the rewatch.
We watch *Jackass* in the living room where you grew up,
Your brother sprawled on the floor and I watch you
Like always, in convulsion. American flag in fist, Johnny rushes
The stun gun and falls, falls again. The last experiment
Is ordered illegally on the internet. You know it
From police procedurals and half-remembered nightmares.
The camcorder gives almost no time to the weapon, only Johnny.
After the third fall, he outdoes prophecy, leaping to his feet.
A voice offscreen: do you want to go in and watch it on the TV?

Sam Furlong