In Onan’s Apartment

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My first day back she wonders aloud, “At the time of Ivan Ilych, was Tolstoy aware of the miracles chicken soup works on any ailment?” This delights her classmates, the instructor, and especially her muscle-shirted neighbor, who is still slapping his desk in amazement at the depths of her mind.

Shaughnessy is starting to get on my nerves.

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**In Onan’s Apartment**

*by*

*Mark Osing*

*English 3*

There is maleness here
among the musty oaken massiveness,
among the ethereal white mold on the linoleum,
grown secretly under a brown bag sodden with coffee grounds,
among the dust balls, those phantoms of the activity of decay,
among the filmy dishes, greasy coat of use, of guilt,
among the stacks of papers, news frozen—unread, yellowing,
and among the floorboard cracks, bits of toenails, pliable
discarded male bone.

Maleness wafting about a pornographic magazine pile
an ever so faint smell of sex
Maleness drying
dissipated into linen
There is Maleness here,
calling for complement.