

**26 Lies  
(2016)**



**Thomas Heitler artist**

A collaboration between poet Joan Lennon and artist Thomas Heitler as part of the **26 Lies** project.

*The Brief: 26 quotes about lying were randomly assigned to each of 26 writers. We were asked to a) find an artist partner to work with and b) to write a response to our quote.*

My quote was "Our lies reveal as much about us as our truths." (J.M. Coetzee)

Visit the full **26 Lies** project at <https://26project.org.uk/26lies/>

## Joan Lennon poet

**"Our lies reveal as much about us as our truths." (J.M. Coetzee)**

*"But which is which?" (J.L. Lennon)*

The white flame lies, lures  
the moth's moon dance, wings tracing  
soft grey truths in air

Our lies reveal as much about us as our truths.

Know me by my clothes then. Re-creational layers over the truth of sag and shape, my clothes lie.

Or know me by my skin. Tidily containing the truth of ooze and stink, my skin lies.

Know me by my skull perhaps. Bone-cradling the truth of grey whorls of brain, keeping synapses from fritzing in the rain - under hair and under skin, even my skull is a cover-up.

Or know me by my words. My *Hello* as layered as an onion, my *blue* the colour of the wine-dark sea, my intention that morphs between lip and ear - my words tell tall tales.

The white moon is cold  
as truth - moon dust never lies  
downy on moths' wings

(A haibun is a Japanese poetic form that combines prose and poetry, each looking at the same theme from a different slant.)