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## The Poet and The Wine-Drinkers

John Grey

Like Dracula,  
I don't drink wine.  
But I like to be around it.  
And to be around those  
who sip it,  
usually delicately,  
sometimes sensually,  
and from delicate sensual glasses.  
Also, I enjoy conversation  
with wine-drinkers,  
as long, that is,  
if the talk's not of the wine itself.  
I do hate all that  
phony connoisseur talk  
like body and nose and bone dry.  
I like it when the wine  
opens people up a little,  
breaks down the brain barriers,  
loosens the tongue.  
Their hands are occupied  
so they can't physically  
close up.  
And I find when the chest  
is wide open,  
guardedness is put on notice,  
honesty can begin.  
So you'll often see me  
at wine and cheese parties.  
Grab a glass  
and come look for me.  
I'll be the cheese.

### Bio Note:

John Grey is an Australian poet, US resident, recently published in *Penumbra*, *Poetry Salzburg Review* and *Hollins Critic*. Latest books, "Leaves on Pages" and "Memory Outside the Head" are available through Amazon. Work upcoming in Lana Turner and Held.