

# ONE

You are born. You build yourself piece by piece. You construct a narrative. You become an individual, surrounding yourself with all that you love. You are wounded too, sometimes, and left scarred. Yet you become a heroic and unique embodiment of both the things you cherish and the things that cause you pain. As you grow into this living idea, you become instantly recognisable; among the billions of faces in the world, you become that which you think you are. You stand before the world and say, ‘I am here and this is who I am.’

## TWO

But there is an influence at work. A veiled, magnetic force. An unnamed yearning drawing you toward a seismic event; it has always been there, patiently waiting. This event holds within it a sudden and terrifying truth. You were never the thing that you thought you were. You are an illusion, as the event shatters you into a multitude of pieces.

## THREE

The pieces of you spin apart, a million little histories,  
propelling themselves away at a tremendous rate.

They become like the hurtling stars, points of  
retreating light, separated only by your roaring  
need and the distant sky itself.

## FOUR

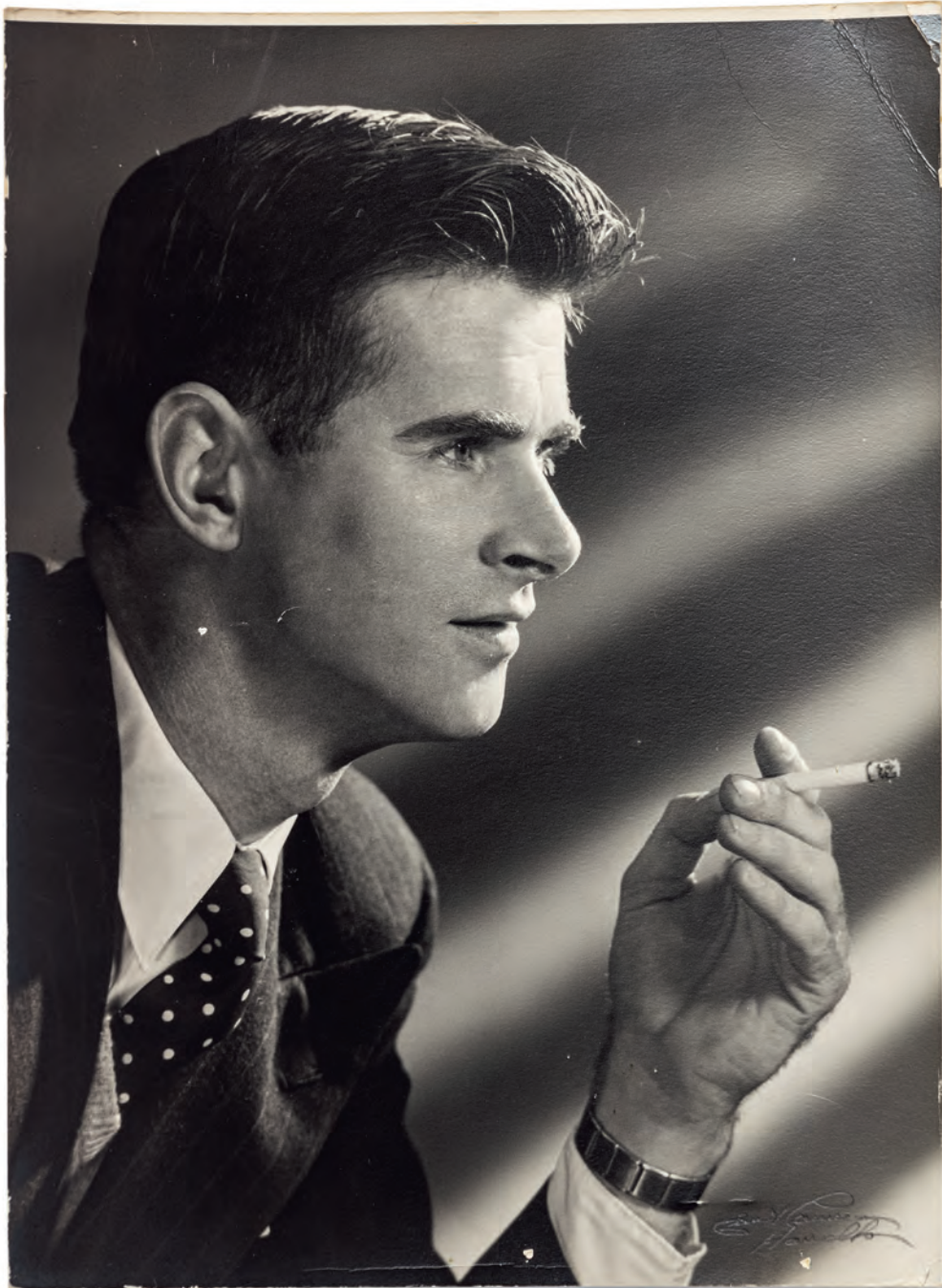
You scramble for the pieces of your shattered history. There is a frantic gathering up. You seize the unknowable fragments and begin to put yourself back together again. You reassemble yourself into something that seems absolutely foreign to you, yet fully and instantly recognisable.

## FIVE

You stand anew, remade. You have rebuilt yourself.  
But you are different. You have become a we, and  
we are each other: a vast community of astonishing  
potential that holds the sky aloft with our suffering,  
that keeps the stars in place with our limitless joy,  
that situates the moon within the reaches of our  
gratitude, and positions us in the locus of the divine.  
Together, we are reborn.

Nick Cave as a toddler in Warracknabeal, c. 1960  
Photograph by Colin Cave





Colin Cave, c. 1956  
Photograph by Ernest Cameron  
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