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Elderpark Street, Govan

We climb the steps above the bookies —
a taste of piss so strong, it makes my eyes
water. Black iron straps barricade each
door, hieroglyphs on the dimly lit walls.
My muscles tighten, like prayer beads knotted
on a string. 'I advise you to knock this one back,'
says the guy from Housing. 'You'll never last.
They'll be kicking in your door before midnight.'