

HELL GATE

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A NEXUS OF NEW YORK CITY'S EAST RIVER

Michael Nichols



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To the fishermen, the mariners, and Tom Maxey—
the *isolatoes*—each his own continent;
and an honorable mention to Salvator R. Tarnmoor

A passage, called by the Dutch settlers of New York, Helle Gat . . .

—*New International Encyclopedia*

These are the true names of the places—but why it has
been thought necessary to name them all, is more than either
you or I can understand. Do you hear anything?

Do you see any change in the water?

—Edgar Allan Poe, “A Descent into the Maelstrom”

Terror enlarges the object, as does joy.

—William Carlos Williams, *In the American Grain*