

**the science seemed so solid**

*(some poems from graceful degradation)*

Betsy Fagin

### **yarrow stalk oracle**

waking magnetic, dashed  
from lightning: air behaving as fire.  
wolf into dog, intoxicant night blind  
to all minor infractions  
ruled approach swift, resolute.  
deceptively involved form  
disengaged, balance debased,  
rebalanced to a foundling situation of  
irradiated joy. palpable harmony's raw  
obstacle–intricately charged  
atmospherics' central design.

### **eating ancient virtue**

illustrated hands pair with another  
halting source then run, coursing  
seed vision then part, fast enough.

cannot destroy mesa noise or shift dirt  
-done stance allowing lost ways to erupt  
falling her many bones the only constant,

crucial– don't stop collected tears  
manifesting present existence  
including my trod on stood ground.

scorched breath underfoot.  
false complexity makes it bounce  
the obvious suspicion— alone

in the abundant universe— brought on the  
unexpected: disturbed accidental night  
mists of surety. open seamless deception.

misdirected laboratories conceal nothing.  
restraint from questions rarely connects.  
accept unstoppably obvious. recognize.

## **16 cowrie shell oracle**

manipulated ideals lost.  
wealthy in hardship—  
the ripple calm lake's  
shimmer experience.  
starring relief, florescent  
release. its suffering  
manufactured reward  
and punishment.  
inferior settlement  
drone, incarnate, immerse.

### **shared meat spoiled**

seeing previous satisfaction  
years too late. later, next door,  
perfectly on edge.  
inspired absolute regard  
with irresponsible interpretation  
improbably reported.  
unfolded beneficial co-operation  
efficiently undermining  
conversion to rugged absurdity.  
no more seething—linger encouraged  
heart-broken capacity already gone.

### **can we fix it?**

the oracle examines your relationship:  
an opportunity to consider allowing. foolish  
craving results give mirror energy.  
dangerously more. love  
your witness. have perseverance  
further valley down to seek folly—  
tendency bitches made me do it.  
another humble pull. mechanically,  
we traditional as the book, by the book.  
supply an answer to intuited questions.  
flattery confirms preferences.  
oracles approach people to mislead & indulge.

### **exile soaked**

glorified wild and free but fenced  
off body shade field challenge  
a healing (transpersonal) leaved body  
prolonging attachment's shallow dismal  
and staggering present. injured, ill,  
preoccupied with your arms,  
with so forth and ceasing.  
particularities bond river influence  
to snow fronds, vast and opposing  
staying—the sea polarized  
denial of limitations  
soaked with sense of exile.

### **positive absence**

sense good practicality. rational  
to flaws offensive demands require  
expectation. undone remains evil.  
players: cue silence.

density limits impossibilities.  
river crossing flood to fortune.  
undertaken descent.  
delights in the impossible deed,

superhuman torments:  
unimaginable fluid buildup  
mountaintop lofty island.  
a secret sky, forest distant.

## **outnumber predators**

projections source recognition burden  
shadow's constant weight—  
weakened resistance. concentrated.

presence her to addicted worlds' outer  
glittering— fragments into splinters (gems  
within the cave) light its own reclaiming

root drama. felled never fragments.  
fragmented reflects mirror backs— a thousand  
globes—worlds! content with inner seeing.

run themself rescue.  
let rescue urge toward feeling confessed.  
thank destiny. my rule, crying more.

no, put true will. free.  
find through movement—liquefy.  
re-water. solution again. resolution.

embody compute,  
compute supergenius— quest?  
courage? heretical. hardened thought

opened hectic dissolved  
to unstructured allow chilled,  
depressurized, detached.

## **no harm done**

eyes before sight  
faked moves—  
adaptable. gritty. tough  
need times sadness form  
restless defense platforms  
stringing along  
consume addictive failure  
silver horses shadow  
in lost crowd sleep  
as stone to turn heads  
snake, entombed.

good computation  
increases meaningfulness  
thin life deficit ever recorded  
careful generality observation.  
need others consideration  
belief in external needs and  
easy mechanical tasks.  
endeavor to persevere.

## **to divine and center**

help reconstruct insistent  
meaning. mutual dreaming  
binds as expanse to contract.  
unpredictably adaptable  
structuring moment by moment—  
hypothetical past: severity encapsulated,  
retrained into restrained chaos  
and unconscious compulsion. reduced  
spare change a complex, fragile kernel  
of self-acceptance.

planned interference,  
interpretive magic opens clenched  
validity into improbably phenomenal  
world. memory's dried artifacts—  
the mutable past. irrevocably altered  
meaning. unfixed among the ruins  
as portended in the outer worlds.



## **navigation**

established trajectory–  
thankless jobs weigh a ton

close observation considers  
logistical world focus revelatory.

intentional. obstacles perceived  
as progress surround– drawn maps,

charted courses. open avenues  
of possibility avoidance.

wrongly directed to a lost wood,  
toward the wall; drawn adrift

in collective undertow. time travel  
captains position shifts,

re-triangulate. consider gradual  
or sudden. undergone smoke wisps,

cinders, structure chrysalis frequency  
imaginal cells– strange development.

## **ensnared**

needs must abide  
being taught to weep  
to stitch unison, desirous,  
into an evidence-free system. juicy  
incoherent tomorrow's surprise–  
abject kindness: a fever-dream internalized,  
revelation at odds  
with will– compelling  
receptacle cross-currents,  
well shallow, one irreducible  
river light merciful tall building–  
form of canyon.

## **silent consent**

garish wreck cored counterfeit lives  
of cutting tools' technological magic  
all construct cloud gaze, seeding denial  
to rule composite reflections  
black ink feeling level mountain  
prevented isolated permanently  
opportunity window open to flood  
the new forward approach.  
is the princess really trapped in the castle?  
needing rescue? really?

## **fail soft**

connection rewound passion  
to grow cropped alliance. for weal.  
charged observance to artifact  
evaluation sequence:  
witness content unexplored.  
corridors of secret wolves  
in the pack. altered unfoldment  
papered confusion of daily factual  
and its ephemeral existence.

## **not an error of the oracle**

well water joined freezing to rise up  
as island. forbid pleasure-indulged  
pain: thorned, barbed—blurred, lost.  
ignited to receive and inflict. eating  
through constellations reignites the brilliantly  
vicious. torment bound tomorrow morning's  
slippery infiltration: multiverse expands.  
if a bond of live exists,  
no distance keeps. captivated  
by a flat land incapable of more.

## **halo effect**

(all oil is spilled)

.halo effect. meet .negativity bias.  
.disperse. you chose uneasy .gradual. to  
.slow. enclosed attention .down. interact  
with an oracle .and still. what are you  
seeking? ..romantic completion.. ..deference to  
authority.. ..wishful thinking.. ..loss aversion..  
..defensible zone.. dissolved hardness .wait.  
consider smoldering  
.waiting on. collective imagined  
smooth radiance .awaits. over flat.  
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## **holes in the oracle bones**

metaphor silences nothing  
as river though burning  
mind-forged manacles  
never lost sleep's flat interpretation:  
all terrain armored transport  
reinterpreted: I and I will survive.  
substitute mine own eye  
defrag lost efficiency against  
the wind, in unstable gravity  
darkened dream seeded skies  
resist the oracle's liminal space.  
not fully formed glare transition  
sees through ambiguous waters,  
opens dissolved learnedness.

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