

Angela Hume

from *Melos*

...

at dusk's farthest edge river

no where
to go

light gone out of the sky

rocks and oaks alders
blanch

fingers
reach, the ink

water becomes
in night

(appearing still moving

light gone out

but beyond the
canopy's blot

sky
illumes

blue
in the darkening

.

forest, emaciate
in the black

bark bladderlike
 heavier than

air
 wa(te)r

elsewhere
 spectral

poison

.

here body, painful
 torsion

sac on the
 surface puncture

(rim fire
 hemorrhage

here my tongue
 on your teeth

in as much of your body as

(earth, a bad
 place

capsizing toward you

 unessential
 world dissoluble

.

evening moves
sky-tinted water

(place I'm from

plenty of light
left hums

a cut
clean through

carries
leaf

tinted
blue

.

morning's
dehiscence
melos

Nuttall's
woodpecker

somewhere (pitik

plumage or oak

*(non-being of each is the other of
both*

coats

the mind
watching

from separate bodies

bright in each, pain
or sugar

we were *the limit*

is the middle between two

*in which
they cease*

non-being of
each in search of

health
your basic

beach

egret wisp brush
in marsh

takes to flight

(where does the bird end
lagoon begin

geologic fact. west of
rift

like all the day's weight
in sand and

wind lifting arid

reach

...

toxic tri
 panic clos
 an

bio
 norma at
 tivity ra
 zine

are we feminizing our baby boys?

assault on the male: our future at risk

a series of
 glands

*[combining] elements of two or more animal
 forms*

a smear
 in the bile

the milk

.

(fear
 the girl

initially absorbed through
 tissue in the mouth

hard palate soft
 upper and lower
 teeth

site of threat displays panting production of
sounds

repulsively

into the blood into the
child

a creature

large, ugly, and frightening

the downward tilt of
any glans

.

incomplete
masculinization

(providing excellent control over
how much chemical gets into the
mouse

something about how
sperm is made

of a
degree

incompatible with life

*(pass down to your children grandchildren and great-grandchildren your blue eyes
left-handedness*

*not a lifetime of
toxic exposures*

fix it.

so kids can be normal

...

dignity of a Jeffrey
pine single

impression
upon a

bolt of cloth, indigo-dyed tonight's
Sierra Nevada

(out from under
urban land cover

dry day bedding down low
water, bleached

riprap
a crumpled
skeleton

impossibly
luminescent—

and you
what must be

protected

most fiercely: that which
is past

.

desire
a search

survivor, in a word: *knife*

or *no*

or a summer of women

spread over the lawn

the list would be endless—

the rules of reverence—

.

(this collective
grief noise

no end
to drought autumn

heat

batters bodies'
insides and outsides

dusky
release of surfaces

deep in the blue
crescent

between
tree line and bridge negative

shaping
there opening

you clutched parts of

me darkly
inside and I

didn't stop no for once
followed your body to the center of
mine

.

said: why do you break the social
body?

said: our bodies have been broken
into and so we break the social
body.

.

a felt rifting

(incremental
adaptation

left you with
visibility

at less than a mile, 80,000
acres

scorched winds
high left you
there

now

a new
objective

for a new
world:

mitigate.
damage.

...

crustal
plate

strike-slip at the transform
 boundary

all matter moving in one
direction or

entirely the other

Notes

Some of these fragments are after Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Brenda Hillman, and Lorine Niedecker.

Pages 3-4: The italicized text is from Hegel's *Science of Logic*.

Pages 5-6: Some of the language in these pages is from features at Fox News (Deirdre Imus, "Green Your World") and Public Radio International (Ashley Ahearn, "Living on Earth"). The thinking that informs this work is Giovanna di Chiro's. See her piece "Polluted Politics? Confronting Toxic Discourse, Sex Panic, and Eco-Normativity."

Page 8: On Anne Carson's translation, Elektra cries, "Oh my friends, / in times like these, / self-control has no meaning. / Rules of reverence do not apply" (see *An Oresteia*).