



Rx redux

Dana Teen Lomax

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R χ redux

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For Una

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

—from the *Prayer of St. Francis*

Lullaby

I'm sure God has a mean streak

whoever there is
whatever there is

picks what we've decided can't hurt us or won't happen

to humble everyone
when we least expect it

Superman can no longer move then dies
Wendy Wasserstein leaves behind her 7-year-old daughter
BP and our own subtle habits spew on and kill us off

just to reiterate the precious

Lullaby

Tonight we distinguish
panicking from a pannikin

a small pan or metal cup
a sudden, overpowering terror, often affecting many people at once

you're afraid to die
startled and freaked out late at night

vertigo, clammy hands and forehead
no control

you always pick the Celestial Seasons mug
with the bear family in jammies
I think it says,
"Bread and water can so easily become toast and tea"
in black letters

Lullaby

On the couch, as we watch

Samantha—An American Girl's Holiday

Mia Farrow plays “Grand Mary”

and you see her as

“kind but proper

fun-loving but lady-like”

while my mind flashes

Frank Sinatra

Rosemary's Baby

Woody Allen and Sun-Yi

spiraling out into Mia's smooth face

now in the role of a conservative, old woman

against suffrage and sipping tea.

So many lives in this one...

Lullaby

Be careful, Dear One
they will tell you
things happen for a reason

and use reason
for things
that aren't real

spreading democracy
true equality
headlines lines in the fall

Watch out, Dear One
it's reasonably true
they don't care about you at all.

Lullaby

when not everyone
can see the elephant

when no coffee tables
are apparently disturbed

and everyone seems
not to notice

the stains
on our communal carpet

many will
move on

which makes life
messy

when we're able to overlook
other people's suffering

how can we conjure the courage
 (have I modeled this for you?)
to do better?

Lullaby

And I am addicted to Jewel Quest Solitaire
on my phone

faces, pillows, smiles, and clouds
over and over again
lining up
thumbs adept at sequential order
light buzzing in my head

when your dad comes to bed
lies down next to me reading a Buddhist book
the Dalai Lama in his shaded rims
smiles at us

there's a sketch of one of your summer 2010
dress designs on the nightstand
this one is blue
with bright circles where the boobs go
which reads *mother* to me
and is a tribute

but right now I'm just trying to score more than 7,000.

Lullaby

I don't want to picture you
bored and warehoused, pale and
shackled to your hard-backed, educational chair.

And the ethical questions soon follow:
Is it OK to pass notes in class?

A few things to remember:

err on the side of generosity
and
the law is a blunt instrument.

Ultimately, I trust your judgment.

Lullaby

burst of energy
when she
falls to sleep
all that's left
undone
search
the interior walls
what's unresolved
in shadows
on the child's face

Lullaby

The directive as

I remember it

was to yell epithets

at a tree

and stand back

to watch the results

keeping an eye on

limbs & leaves

the surrounding grasses

any change in light

to take in a reaction

projections, reactivity

so many wars diverted

Lullaby

at the end of the rat race is a rat
punished on her own
claws torn down by pavement
matted fur in moonlight

this morning's bath showed your
I'm used to it disposition
already airy and agreeable so young
you hummed, wiping sleep from your eyes

while I turned away anxious from the tiles
Dear One,
they have us
somehow they got us, too