

Saxifrage, sideways

Anna Reckin



Saxifrage, sideways

a sequence of poems

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Somewhere in the Cloud and Inbetween:

A Tribute to Marthe Reed

Dusie Kollektiv 9

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How slide sideways in thought, language, action from anthropocentric attention that privileges human needs and experience to interconnective thinking, from privileged center to radical diffusion?

What if we could inhabit, at last, margin and center all one?

Marthe Reed

London Pride
Saxifraga x urbium

anthers round as pinheads, sometimes
more prominent than petals, a haze
of dots

white petals fine as blossom

used for edging, by the side of red-and-black chequerboard
tiled paths, next to glazed rope-
edging, carefully laid

to lead to Victorian front doors

(the squeak of the wrought-iron gate on to the street)

splits definitives:

as in

not necessarily saxatile

nearly confused (in damp habitats) with a sundew

St Patrick's cabbage is part of the Lusitanian flora, which looks westwards, excludes mainland Britain.

rock-

flower-spikes spring up straight from the base

shrug off in-despite-ofs

foil, sheer off

of a fall

– or sliding

umbrosa and / or *spathularis*

sometimes given the same common names

the wild London Pride(s)

not necessarily

saxatile (rock-face splendor), but some in damp meadows, near the bogs in Kent where round-leaved sundews used to grow

given the same name

Pimpinella, Petroraghia (Greek piled on Latin here, quite insistent)

- lacy, possibly peppery, related to carrots
- the tunic flower, the coat flower; belongs to the pinks

specifics slide in amongst the stones

Another sort of a song

Leaves shaped like kidneys, and
in clusters along the stem

or near the base, bulbils
like little shiny stones

(breakage is
on the inside)

flower-spikes spring
from rosettes, brisk

cress-green, with
many daughters; there

where water collects, leaf-litter
the beginnings
of soil

Doesn't split. Finds
the already-cracks
grows there

Marthe Reed, “‘Somewhere Inbetween’: Speaking-through Contiguity’ in *Counter-Desecration: a glossary for writing within the Anthropocene*, ed Linda Russo and Marthe Reed. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2018, 77–90

William Carlos Williams. “A Sort of a Song” in *Selected Poems*, ed. Charles Tomlinson. New York: New Directions, 1985, 145

According to the Saxifrage Society, the original stone-breaker, as identified by Dioscorides, was *Saxifraga granulata*, which has “small grain-like bulbils at the base of its stem, coupled with kidney shaped leaves.” Perhaps on account of its form, it was thought to be effective in treating kidney stones. This species grows in meadows rather than rocky habitats.

http://www.saxifraga.org/plants/articles/rock_breakers.asp

“Another sort of a song” first appeared in a slightly different form in *Line to Curve*. Bristol, UK: Shearsman, 2018

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