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j e n h o f e r

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jen hofer

* for dk *
in solidarity in friendship

l a w s

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

brittle shelter needless under a bridge slowed remains
consumed and couldn't figure it, couldn't filter
tender ladder legal donor mutiny rousing infinite address
litter delve repair above growth tripped silence
tomorrow's another day, bunny
thy conversation ceaseless with none no further annotated
moving from place to place
do match, strike on, swept up, filigreed
misfortune into a future waxy and slick lustrous thanks
ever burnishing, filibustered and lascivious set forth obstacular
the temptation to compunction or collectibly yours
causality like trumpets announcing failure's explosive misfire
further annotations unnecessary, hence their use like houses
irreplaceable blue flowers like houses
plucky chesty birds perfunctorily feathered
swept up in the music, anything could have happened
arduously reconstructed doubt by doubt
like a kite string, like a curtain string, like a dollar unidentified, like houses
lessons learned like futility's hollow-toothed smile like the uncrossed street
merely a gap in the middle of things
merely a thing acknowledged unseen

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

leaning into the wake, waking the light shorn predictable
inheritance intrinsic rough trade as cheap labor protected, retracted
an hysterical offensive at the head of an inroad
in blue pools newly attuned, or so what
a concertina noted shelved, a banal rescue
until i can intrinsically, or so what, adjustments make being
suspicion's dreary while whittled down over a repair visit
torn tricks as a trick's only clever in measure
if you want to say it, probe, react, something, anything
if it's not the attempt, it's the trail, the inadvertent irretrievable error
lost in the telling, the waking, flailed fading tumble
sadly assurance in the shroud of our debt, swaddled, buried beside the roadside
flowers fake, faded, a trial run being also a run
streaming homeward through molecules key in hand
was open to the week of, annotated exclamatory
the chair softly indented where the body should
to was or to were, either side of being
no matter how many times you say it, something, anything, say it
under coercion the interrogation is admissible evidence, fact flipped
an echo where the ricochet is long gone, long damped
a damp sky under which trees, noiseless

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

the description prevailed, meticulous, ponderous, oppressive
wings clipped as the crown, distance contracted clenched, lock-jawed
heat reined in and actually surpassed by humidity
a key had been found, then slipped the mind
to say "this is how i think"
a concertina straining against a cookbook
never mind what
rumor had it there would be a large fine
as the gouged legislation suggests
ontology prevented punctuality so tempers bled thin
reality's finite just around the infinite bend
there's dissension in distinction, a distant din
or was it a find
pink sweet curves and sweet downy beige underfeathers
does not a man make
the escape valve leading intermittently to the same
stood still, spun point, as a stalk, still wary, profiled
sweet as sweetmess
surgically extracted, wings clattering to earth, face upturned, scores unsettled
larynx paralyzed mildly, being a historical state
along the telephone wires clutched, conversation startled, peaked in silhouette

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

morning, yowling at the sliding glass, to reveal or permit
in the pocket, our pedigree purchased
the sky a blurred notation
fallen from the trees a concussive preclusion faintly green
the pallor of the days manicured, though left untended
diligently southward in schools habitually burned into the willing retina
in that moment, saw nothing, then negative space
far and few between, soaring mercilessly or without emotion
to need tenderness, to allow, to portend potentially
not to impose not to presume yet to think
the noted peculiarity a definitive sign of degeneration
to lend or to spend, deductions taken for granted in timely expenditure
getting worse, then better, then worse, then going shopping
emptied the music to locate the depth
prepped up to receive
livid tribulation, rippled calm, above a variegated expanse casually indifferent
how many kinds of birds there are
only to distinguish
plotting or casting, the lure of lead sewn into the hem of a gorgeous demand
seeming awkward and probable, oxidized and ever so slightly bent out of proportion
in the distance the foreign as an inked ribbon, slicked smoothly distinct

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascent (shares)

Why why a thousand times
after flame, flare, airborne migration, instinct awry or path purchased
unnecessary yet tremendous, in finite extended many to please so as or not
an expressive grammar in falsetto having found
in lists so as to designate (ornery so-and-so)
a question misappropriated dilapidated promise
no explanation necessary (requitement) (none proffered)
didn't reach the tributary for the intervening interrogative
surrendered, obediently our wires tapped, trapped, electrocuted into song
an opportunity insurmountable or the trespass untitled
couldn't be enough not porous intrinsic value total value
empty rhetoric imposes an empty emotion
how are you, no how are you really
"if only it were possible to say"
visible fear of being seen, oranges peeled in one fell swoop
how the two sides mix and establish, you were established
sleeps stain even the sorriest lake, hobbling mindfully forward
only the eyes and elongated head rest dinosauresque above the tensed surface
what was once wavers, refusal to surrender, refusal to refuse, when organized
the beast is beautiful, not quite right, that way things have of wanting
the registry all off so the dates noisily clump, our preparations woefully
twitter, how wondrous

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

why this or this and not this or this one or that, this this forced opening narrowly
beyond wordlessness
elongated, shared, having found more bodies, limbless
munitions revelation digitally doctored, actually it went like this, going
with sunspots momentarily
glaringly it was clear as a pinecone the trial was rigged, needling
how can you say "planet," "spore," stiff upper lip, whatever-ology
too much, filled with nothing, to be said, do bid adieu, wondrous adios
beyond mementos and memory's tender sacrilege
tenuous the ribbon damp from the glancing rain
now that we know the price of velveteen
the price of petticoats skidding sumnily across the ballroom floor
guessing wrong, being right, sodden contested comfort
the consideration reserved for a quieter night
vegas returned to its rightful owner, if gapped
power concentrated hardly deciduously of distant interpretation
a long list of things, how you say, unwrapped
wearing a skirt or being a skirt, halting approach beside the equation
expecting nothing, taxable or deducted, receiving nothing
how positively lovely, and thank you, rented, drawn to, unsure, why i never
holier than thou though that's not hard, fruitless a consequence of what broadcast

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

not collected but selected, distressed, trials in immigration
wishful thinking down the pipeline, provided we dream americanly
a toothbrush and a pair of panties, documents, couches, months
pay your dues, does duty endemically infect, duly denied
dance halls elicit soft weeps
black birds incandesce with blue heads unmarried young
casually waiting for benign acceptance
suffocated, sublime, incipient, ellis island, someone's dead, someone's law
dreadless and hazy with provisions for stasis at the helm
about to try in unapologetic quaver in a strange land
i am but a dent in the public bus of your friendship
hand in hand into the sunset smog smudges against our fancy big-city unemployment
unbaptized puppeteer, without benefits, the gates lockless and smile unglued
unmemorized mesmerized missing a lot remembering and missing
how you can know anything and how you can know nothing
a colony, a settlement, a commune, a painter, a bus driver, a booster, a talent in bloom
"taking advantage of a situation is not necessarily stealing"
the word or song or salt that cannot be translated or approximated or coaxed nostalgia
flayed and fearful threaded through the machine, steamed "inspected" and sold
a posture or situation elicits a condemned response incomplete
incomplete knowledge, the time of day, shifts, nighties, possibilities or closures or
flu:

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

from one building to another building to another building
shuttered, shackled, shattered appearing guilty or guiltily disappearing
"what is this world about?"
unsuccessfully hidden in a drainpipe, eyes in a black of black
as a bellows, as a posture, lactating and providing, embellishing and usurping
a foul on the word seminal, a curse on george bush's eyes
philosophy, thought, attitude, window, lore, narrative, altitude, window, my favorite
"liberty and be well is a beautiful melody"
slick lock into notion definition, a thin slip, a slipped thing in shackles shaken
in memory the phrase unbroken, in present passed away
records, registries, vinyl discs, vinyl purses, coins, memories, techniques
near misses, narrow escapes, present danger in the proximate tense
suspicion that's something's not quite right, techniques tinged
potential virus, potential reprimand
the amount of money necessary to hearken back to the good old days
indescribably music which needs no description nor describes
partial geography, elevator, ashen, partial meteorology
to make amends, though happenstance's fault is lady luck's gain
our nominees unnamed, alias big boy, alias butter-me-up, echoing civility faded in echo
each to each and each to all, to have not yet met to meet
longingly walked longingly into the convex night stoic parabolic

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

list: bananas, apples, nerve, yogurt, beer, perspicacious
ways and means towards o-called reality
looming flatly over the looming sky
the distance ardent asserts its orange disc though lovingly
for profit we might do other things lovingly
literal designs floating lovingly off on an unexpected wind
teased into substance, preferring natural light
if there were other things to do, precision maintenance or at bay
sugar and space in good measure at arm's length
disappointingly, lovingly, there were laws against that sort of thing
wrecks of vehicles orbiting the decades, an odor, proliferations
repeating remarks, commentaries, heckles, jeers numerously trilling
the pigeon exhibited a lovely white and grey pattern in splotches
mantra repetition consent, does no good, nevertheless occurs
hired to perform a service, hired to perform a song
no need to count, to collate, damage, slipshod, and then what
he was frisked though evidently nude of intent and cuffed
perform it, petticoats, delude it, disillusion, condense it, take it as a cue
or forever consigned to a screaming dictated silence
a catch-22 in which the split where upset the how into being quite different
true to form, it began and began again, truly formidable, ex post facto formulaic

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

happens recede, yet spherically momentous pushed or protracted emphatically towards
laborious production which expands into a pricey expanse
while you're out there, would you
the birds unerringly blue, pursued through
"seeing people," in the absence of formal obligation, absent thus improved
slid faithlessly into the slot like clock-work
a misty scum covering a state or sky like clock-work
from what split train of what shall departure trimly swelter up
to digest the tidbits proffered un-gently at the polls
misbegotten, utterly dismayed by the sizeable size acquired in flight from what
happens repeat, and also concur all over again
laboriously swooning as the cannons announce we've come
the dairy queen appears on your left as you arrive, memoir like clock-work
trees growing on other trees, over again, a glimpse, a hazard
lottery-style, it's always happening to someone
to be being known, being taken, recognized or cheated
doesn't, duty, enter into it, merely luck obtusely widens
battery-style, quite electrified and then some
erasure's upstream pressure, slickly we are flattened, wavelessness costs
what money can buy and has, has been, has been magnetized
as if an atmosphere permeated with difference yet unchanged

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

one horizontal temptation smudging up the green instant
the metropolis a pale flock, one bird at the margin, feathers spread thin
trend toward lacy edges indestructible yet patched
presence distant parole sounded sonar stability involuntary
half-hearted foreseeable sale preliminary to neighborly
to be "totally nuts" or worth something or going deaf
claims made against the far shore
adaptation retroceded eroded due to fragility move
against the thinly veiled set pieces we transit
lost, left, dependent, limit a dream of a break or fall
the difference has tipped to one side
veiled, unvarned, worn down, thin, full of copper wire in coils
a message was left less than satisfactory terrycloth transmission
had been purchased very cheaply, the dirt road being bull-dozed, sand raised
one would arrive and one would leave
trepidation green on green in a timely facsimile fashion
sixty cents per and the tide is going
unbearable, unstoppable, smooth, proficient, prophecy, unpredictable, monetary
with no recourse hovering involuntarily
the analysis precedes the memory in retrospect to provide a certain greatness, greatness
the breeze trapped in the infinite behind the trees, rising on asphalt

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

in solution's query, inability, ragged entry agitated
with no purpose unturned mandate demands a terse fence
inexplicably locked from the inside
unidentified, the aromatic extremity boasted beastly purple berries
beastly behavior, ungrateful illustrating the futility of not acting
unsculpted, the ibis traipsed adolescently into humid graceful error
not unkind, but neither respectful
suspiciously unlocked where otherwise meticulously dense sky
opens directly as metronomes directly know their opening
prey to the undeserved or undeserving
as if the outside world merely were not
though thought to be truly beyond measure and deafening
loaded, as in a gun not belonging to
warning given electrically, then refusal
having slipped, trotted, throttled, deigned, tripped
she was no damsel in distress, but rescue was evident
something irredeemably false in text
a feathery depth from which a blue glint, a refuge, a blue shudder
the wayside extending our curtailed current uncoined
and who rudderless seeks redemption in any case
the traffic of aphasia diluted in the drought

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

eyes open, westerly at sunset, slowly, a little blind, a little ballast
on the corner no excuses
i have come honestly to this work and wonder
creased, have wondered often of time's workings, slow erosions
landed logics sublime with the airy accuracy of height, reason's pattern etched indelible
to where have scattered the delectable wheres of a week's thought
a wallet bulging with receipts, a small nourishment in color, acquired knowledge
in favor of relation the eyes denied, mountains serene, retaliation
on the corner no exceptions
a form in a chair, a chair holding a form, a banal question imprinted
the magpie, impressive, was there and then it was gone
on the corner which was no longer a corner
reports from the inferno unchecked, human disavowal, human debt
as if the vastness of a landscape could be made possible by counting
as if form were cognition's handmaiden
the yellow flowered upholstery tremendous in memory only
the goat standing on its hind legs, the jabali, the malodorous goslings
walls handpainted and shipped overseas, put to use, put to shame
stained angular with exploded erasure inviolate crackdown
as if terrorism's call were intelligence's beckon, war spawning unholy war
as if a word could alight to enter a body, fixed in a market at noon in the west

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

the dreamy sky undone above a skyful of rhythmic blue runs
implanted with expectations or expendable tools reinvented
barely aware of and so washed away or about to turn too fast
sieve faster, a membership, a warrant, nicely toned in a former flint
ask and ye shall receive, or perhaps anyhow
longevity's gain insured through the nose
to ignore to be able to cast a shadow to seep to proffer
the timid sky untested below worlds of worlds on film
as if decision's expensive canyons fingered some depth
flew away before proper registration
they nested in companionable silence, or just in silence
as if a subtraction inserted by rote could provide sufficient detail
not ready, or not, indomitable, inexpert, ready or not
narrative transparency ripped in the even soft wind
don't ask and maybe you won't, maybe later, maybe not
well enough alone, as the pelicans prehistorically balance the waves
being a measure of experience, temporality, stress, caress, sweep
the denotative sky in the eye of the beholden
as if a border, a trellis, a link, a chain link
the gauzy sky invisibly mirrored behind the sky
the remedy for sky manufactured denotatively at a margin to somebody's loss

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

"art is climax over conduct" on the tips of her feet, swaying to invoke
a rose, a box, not a rose, a boxy rosy color rising
to song, to anticipation, to generous crow caw, to parking lot, paved path
risks with the irresistible light, this delirious
what other way there might be, out of a sense of duty, out of it
a scorpion and a thumbtack on the wall
a wall and a piece of paper partitioning the between
to have time and time to be had and the timbre of the having
or wave form of being, being color, swell, sentry risen
ravished, 120,000 acres irreparably, changes wrought by combustion, arduous relation
in thus the friday of my jitterbug, i bequeath you one flaw and its accompanying verbs
one flavor and its accompanying hue, one tone and its color-coded accompaniment
the back-up singers to the scholarly, hips swung in time to a droning beat
to work via models not a mold not a voice a moment
in four movements or a single motion, the structure riveted
into lament or into attention, into the hills like proverbial wild-fire
indigestible contractual constituent parts or portions
whiling away a while not doing what i'm told or have told
to stack, to box, to rose, to be, to be shaped or shaped, unfit just in case
to be tardy and accepted to be uninformed, to propose a solution
thinking's thought form undisclosed, twittering, positioned on the lathe, to bore into
an expanse

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

too little too late or too much too soon or "heaven forefend"
in repetition our allegiance adept alliance
lost among the amidst, no routine in sight nor touch
must recover, must remember, must remain, incidentally
the conversation had begun in slivers, splintering
the sunset not visible from the courtyard
there was a considered pause, then the explosion
"all this could be yours"
or "don't stop" or "hold it right there, buddy"
an image of a trout, a trout, a tree-lined street, blown cotton
if we're going to think, we might as well begin now
or give it up quietly on the receding broken sidewalk
broken alphabet, metal casing, torn bluejay wing, trapped
dear madam, if only you could know how much, cognition
dear mad, if only your cheekbone against these many shades of beige
dear m, to fold the map into ribbons or you in an unairconditioned moving vehicle
was stitched with x's and unethnic, yet soft
unable to see the profit margin, while friendliness itself a potential
the view marred by the bountiful name outside precision
tattoo turning fifty or feathered falsely, purchasing things in two's
dear, day's variance and loose mortar notwithstanding we learn through repetition, and
to please

of deaths, dailies, speculations, nascence (shares)

river rock structures held together by a certain process unbolted
unbolted the pleasure of naming
a generational discipline in bare feet swollen
sidestepping meaning in long flashy feathers
the feathers were what glistened under the eaves
strictures of sense and a long wait for a short bus
these streets not noticeably busy, an overtly quaint grid layout
locked out of the rising hierarchy undisciplined
not knowing the pleasure of knowledge unnamed
the doing sufficient, or suspect it so tiny segments
of the self scatters or to purchase absolution or likeness dove-like
against the light the field which is imagination or light
had very much wanted to speak with you
should very much have liked to hear some musics
had an unpleasant thought, then another, then slept
smoke lilted the sky, smudge of sun beautifully, orange mist where no mist should blind
rather difficult to wake, rather mistaken in method
to enter into a state, a civil state, where a solution might occur, or a solvent, a blind
appeasement, an approach, a surface swaying blind
diminished value on the frontier, heaving violent plains across which travel discouraged
not having looked up, face raised, not having forgotten to remember but neither having
Remembered

previous versions of some of these poems
were published in hunger, mixed blood,
new review of literature, and wherever
we put our hats. gratitude to the editors
of these journals.

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