

DECEPTION &
WHISPERS IN THE LIGHT

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For C.K.



“Now you know me sad. Now you know me as a cloud.”

DECEPTION



Druids' ruins while intact lack the bile of looped sin.
Bend inward, turn the speckled heart into elation.
Tender dead feathers churning butter are gnarled
The hands that hold them, turning barleywine
From within in time the last refrigerator you shook
Before becoming a spook, while your chest startled
Throbbing as earth does when it is looked upon,
Made bold by its cover ups in rude maddening magenta,
and a straightened face made to chase a yawn,
As a face made to be laced with venom, shoulders
Nearby lacking the lies, stumping and slumping.
Give a bauble for the babble of stag hearts.
Tie a cross of yarn and metal to the charred carcass
And believe us when we take that which you mark
With us down to the space where heat gets leaked.
Wisteria and dogwood for sale as in peaked.

Skagit Valley, Washington



Mt Erie overlook
Says come stay
Come be afraid
Prowlers so
Lock valuables
And come be afraid
Of heights, broken
Glass
In the glacierized
Pit, pine needle ravine
And you are there
I scream
Your name
And your response
Exciting
Your image through the trees
Even more so.

Anacortes, Washington



I

Yellow Bus blinding with reflection of sunlight:
sign says
UNLAWFUL TO PASS WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH

II

Useless Bay Drive is used to access Useless Bay.

III

Pink bulldozer, breast cancer bulldozer.

Light shatters light
And the light castle shatters
On Whidbey Island.

Light into light,
Light into light.
We are talking
Despite discomfort.

Coupeville, Washington

Gull flight slice breeze
Hover above craft I in line sight see

Gull flight slice down me
Breathless before Mukilteo
Breathing hard she's on my lap

She is my lap
And the gulls glide through sun
Churning ferry engines
Churning stares from girls

Gull float cinch
Carry my eyes filling of sky animal
Filling of contemptible space
Puget Sound Bestiary Lust

Clinton, Washington

I

Tide pool party for hands.
We keep our digits stretched
And our knuckles clenched.
A mist covers the joy of the sun.
Children walk around like
The paralyzed or mentally ill.
We drove for hours to see
Shape shifters in the water.
We arrived only to be stuck
with ourselves.

II

Tide pools offer life.
A welcome change from ourselves.
We are like the deceased.
We take what little we can get.
And crush it with boredom.
Sand in toes above shoes.
Sand in your mouth.
Back to the earth.
I'll hold your face
While you cover me,
Bury me alive.
Bury faces. Bury toes.
Bury the earth with earth.
Bury the pools. Shifters.
Bury the children.

III

Bury the paralyzed while laughing
While cutting up the laughter
While we offer death
We drove hours to see it.

Deception Pass, Washington



Head in hands the lines of the bench align with the ground
Stuck pig lick I am the bovine slipping in green slosh of time
Tripping up to skinned knee with cemented semen egg sacs
Jumbo rapacious my sandals the antlers above clops of blood
Carried from mansion's front door to cellar store while wearing white
A ghost being captured now raped above the grandfather clock
With mice watching their jagged teeth fixed as chainsaw blade grin
My my I am bent over my eyes slits ebonied and elsewhere owls vomit
The trees are stained dripping patterns my enlivened cavities
Give me your paws oh soulful one to caress and cover my slouch
Give me your paws douse my organ with salmon-flavored gasoline
And burn to smoke to brown sugar to crush flesh between throat
The esophagus a limerick of silence and brushes with assault
The man watched the whole thing, said, "Next time, a second woman."

Mukilteo, Washington



WHISPERS IN THE LIGHT



I have one
spot
one single
single
single spot

I have one
one
one
spot

spot, spot, spot

I have one single
single single
spot

I have one

I have

one

I have one

single spot

single

I

keep your mouth on my neck
and I will keep my back on the seat

II

the road is trying to get off us
and the sky is trying to get off on us

III

bridge traffic tide daughter
nine knots and you're dead in the water

IV

give me a break, please god, give me a break
(brain revolver, turn it over, in the head, repeating)

V

continue to put those things in our bodies
and let us figure it all out hours later

VI

the heart's cruelest mistress is mysterious
and the heart's cruel mystery is a mister

VII

almost tripping and regretting not slicing open the foot
on the shard of beer bottle on the quiet forest floor

VIII

pretending we're talking more than I'm allowing
on the bench next to the pier, secretly begging for whispers in the light

IX

no word to demonstrate the acrobatic hopping
desire to become human dribble pulp down ancient cliff face

X

action and actioneering and buccaneers
collecting wildflowers and self-deprecation

XI

the imaginary wildlife becomes wild once the noise of the imaginary city is born
tried to think of the word “kraken” for several minutes before turning to the sun

XII

'tis better when you've got milkshake in hand and it's got coffee grounds in it
stick straw whip it out suck out soul dejection becomes immediate decision

XIII

mountain problems and the loud cocaine pile of mist shoveled into the trees
mountain problems your skin and mine too thick white powder

XIV

it is or could have been the sirens calling from below
where trip and falling the barnacles sing their chorus slowly

XV

let's find the corner of the ship
let's talk about futures through the voice of the sun

ABANDON SHIP
GEAR INSIDE

the largest roar

r oar

roar

the larg

largest

largest

the largest roar

ROAR

:

jets in the clouds

at Rosario Beach

:

go

go

go

and they

and they will be

heard



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