Glimpses

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Bard College

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Glimpses

Senior Project submitted to
The Division of Languages & Literature

By Duncan “Puce” Hanrahan

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
December, 2017
This is dedicated to two.

Michael Ives

an advisor, the man who kept me in this college

&

Cole Amorello

(1998-2016)

a part of me more than any other
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mind fractured and out crawled a man
he strode and he waved back the dark
carrying a torch that said
spirit in the licking flame
a neon sign diffused through fog
loud on the highway so a rumbling truck
burdened by its freight,
power-wiping bucket loads
off its glass eyes,
could see a mile out
and know to carry on through the umber
for at least
until the flame chokes on stark cold and
quashes
and the umber seeps off through the night
like brown dye in ink

occasionally along the way
in the bottom depth of dark
the truck stops and the driver steps out
to curse the road and hike his pants
he could spit up vile, thrash, and shout but
there won’t be another light
until the mind fractures
and out crawls a man with a torch
glimpses

i.
moments of lucidity are
when the sky shows itself absolute
a word stripped of its signifier
dismantling the platonic form
allowing perception of the sky
as this sky as it is
wiping a slate clean of a noun phrase
and its noun components

my brief glimpses into something i’d call madness
are the world of things baring itself
naked and harsh
be a lamp

i.
the soul centers the fabric’s orbit and oxygenates a void
bodies being textiles that will crumple and fold
suggest evidence of a nucleus
radiating an echo of the primal glow

ii.
an iris gossamer shades a halogen bulb
stamps out a phosphene imprint
that reads
a flush of midnight mauve
lit by its soul exudate

iii.
the iris meditates on its incandescence
on a strict regimen of copper wire
locking form to films and wisps
and the practiced purple
blooms into amethyst
waning

interstates to madras
and salem and nashville

jammed with herds of old people
flocking to the path of totality

some with radios some in silence
one talking to his wife

this is my last chance
to see the moon cover the sun

and then my brain will close
and a dark disc block all light from me

he will turn over, vibrate
emulsify into a milk

slip through the molecules
his body an icy rock
souls incubate in some ambrosial compound
vibrate and cook until it quivers
and the soul feels out the physics of the space
through its mechanics it realizes it's in a pond
and at that moment its frequency amplifies
and vaporizes into a transient tone
received by a melody of stars and planets
its malleable transmissions tune
to a wavelength pre-package of
quirks and flavors and certain spins
traceable such that the degrees of the planets
in relation to the sun and earth
are charted by certain inclinations
by curious sciences and alternative measures
to draw the schematics of stardust
from

Robinson Jeffers writes that man is a nerve ending of God his mission to find and to feel
If man is a nerve ending of God
his home is pain and pleasure
and his operation to inform the neuron
and if one were to meet it
what a neuron it would be
for it would feed on avarice
of the penthouse broker
and generosity of the street walking alms
grace of the monk in movement
weight of men at war
nothing but impermanence
the pain sweeping across a body
as weeping sweeps across the world
each of us plays the other but in shifts
and must these in ratio concoct
one neutral sense born of feeling all things
a comprehension utterly infinite
the nerves assemble into life’s color
the furnace of a white hot neuron
to which the sole response is wonderment
it comes from a beholding of being
funny fever

somewhere in the back alleys
of human interactions shaded
rooting seedy dealings
two eighth graders instigated
an exchange of money for terror
a bill for a bag of bud
ill omen of purple nug chewed up
in a slide damp and dusted
stifled cackles
impish precession celebrating
the inoculation of a psyche
laced with wet
commanding a boy
into a morgue of rotten cypress
leaves like licking flames
curling branches into wrought iron
grafting a metal web of gates
one thirteen-year-old sentenced another
to a mentally ill cacophony of cars
like liquid beatles stuttering
down stop motion road the
kid’s mind glitching dropping frame rate
convinced his body is a piece of silly putty
stretching
and he’s going to snap
into a film of hyper realities
a human son of a father
all fours on the lawn
eating grass like bubblegum
chewing cud like human cow
a leather strap grows around its neck and
sprouts a bell that gives
one ding
that grows
into reverberations
triggering the body to stretch like silly putty
and snap every day
for the rest of a human life
and scattered throughout a mile radius
four parents’ hearts skip a beat
unsure why
seven faces
fashioned from flat planks
congregated like
aimless debris
drawn into orbit
of mars
or some inhospitable
gaseous sphere
eighty percent anoxia
fifteen percent horse tranquilizer
five percent waking sleep

passing a year of life
skin softened into cushions
eyes sinking into tunnels
into dim caves
calcium bodies
absorbing stimulus
saline solution seeping
through pores of a sponge
stable flatline of cartilage
wretched, clawing
fingernails grow as a fungus
where there is no light
yet something
ferments
diary entry

it creeps into the peripheries
the smell of crack
cropping up on pallid fish
one at 69th st station
one wobbling straight out of fishtown
down the car on the MFL
a leather woman
like a drawing of a human on a morass
eyes marked with crumpled plastic bags
a body of hide and rubber tubes
drawn in a picture of desperation
tracings of the street’s shops
she offers tires where there are no wheels
a whole town misplaced on the map
peopled with cracked streets
derelict houses are cargo boxes
home for the doll the dog ripped in half
neither loved nor left
these people worn into things
zoned into recesses
neither loved nor left
it is fall

when the days seem
to step your feet for you
a diligent march on
heavy earth coming into frost
trees dry and let their leaves
long down

It is Fall
we weep at loss
balk at it and
wilt into mourning
sorrow marked by black
a color born in winter's deep night
but leaves go without sorrow
that's what makes them float
and not drop

It is Fall
and there is light to the day
though dim and brief
and marching into dead cold
an acceptance not a forfeiture
of things flying south
ii.
all space is positive
populated by
more than particulates
flitting through it

a man without eyes
doesn’t know color

what do we not know
for the lack of an arcane organ
our mother

her hello
filters from the horizon

and you may part your eyes
from your vision
where she distributes
her presence

her face shifts
through innumerable aesthetics
archetypes, stories
that cannot be fabricated

the entity behind our eyes
the neurons sewing dreams
that our mother is a metaphor
our family a kindred soul

arrived at the same place
at the same time
in an unprecedented scheme
of all things

she will guide you
when you are ready to go
in an airport
the conveyor belt stirs
diseases in
slow circles
baggage revolves
around a life
some spend all theirs
rearranging dust
sentences fabricated
from fridge magnets
the nature of sinking

the iris emits light
directly proportionate
to internal amplitude
the ball of the eye

a pure orb
sees and cannot help

but reflect
a mark of death

over the icy night
the water in our boat

will crystallize
into dark freight

we will submerge
and fail to breathe

the untwitching eye
will only reflect the depth

the nature of sinking
is that it’s alright
to “13 Ghosts II”

what when the world is a wall
settled still from unbreath

what when the world seals
and carbon dioxide fills its rooms

what when the world divorces
all pursuit, left alone

what when everywhere tells a man
he is a chair

what when he wants to reject the pattern
but this is the pattern

so be it he will sit
as other men may be men

conjure their own energies
artificers of some grapple

but for this one man
a chair will suffice

it calls to him a settling
it relieves him of a life

the world is outside
the chair is right here

what when inside a resignation
you may sit through life
skyview apartment — fifth floor

MAN, 40, wall of windows some records and needle skipping nighttime heavy on this city somewhere in east philly

MAN, 40, framed by celestial vacancy a black blanket woven over one-story buildings his neck must crane to remember warehouse and junkyard patches cut up by gutters

MAN, 40, present a child slowly swallowed its days forgotten punctuated moments practically invisible in a run-on sentence redundant descriptions every entrance into the same room every morning exactly where night left

MAN, 40, no history a bare wall’s cornice a table of tacks anonymous possessions no history eyes beholdings a slideshow of irrelevant photographs no history

MAN, 40, ice sings down glass amber slips in logs pop and sputter a flame grows six inches its safety invites a sleep

MAN, 40, a disease coils its roots into a tumor it grows a personality that begs to sink it pumps tar sludges down the blood it sucks fire from the room

MAN, 40, walls bend in and windows shrink to the size of fingernails arrhythmia casts a brick onto his chest manual breathing fear of black lack of dreams fear of soiling the bed going in alone dead phone

MAN, 40, do not disturb sinking down respecting the killer and expecting the elders stockholm syndrome to a poison looking down the cellar peeking through the bulkhead

MAN, 40, familiar basement boiler room hums a lethargy soak into bedrock doors closing and lights pass dim vents seeping closure

MAN, 40, wished for nothing lived for nothing passed to pass a life stretched thin through dark into a plastic tourniquet
glimpses

iii.
i’m afraid of the tear in this fabric
afraid I can see it
and some others can see it
and some even slip through
uncertain of any way back
or of what kind of ride they’re on
but there’s a notion
that lies innate and speaks
in recoilings and blinks
and pulls on your organs
like ropes in a belfry
sounding a signal to flee
maybe it’s one long slide
you spend a year of your life
staring at a machine screw
and another
being a toasted paint bucket
absolutely broken
and without faculties as a bucket
to decide to stop being the bucket
in misery i trust a sheet

i’m a quiet thing to die

i’m going to tuck
my head and go

will you practice
someone else’s song

mine has written a rest
weatherworn

A Tibetan bowl used to sing
ice melting into a pond

it sang train tracks
and big locomotion shaking
the big bay
stippled with heavens

it lathed these into copper
folds and folds of night
a nocturnal year
feeding on chemicals

it wove into the bush
vines growing into its eye
as the bowl sang of underneath
the earth

these chemicals saturated
until the colors blew out
the blacks stained
and the white burned through the film

its pitch rose to the ring of all things
and the bowl sang of nothing

now the bowl has been resigned
to a windowsill
it has rung out and choked

this is the spirit of a man
clean the bowl
take it on a walk
so it will sing
Wednesday

dawn crept up
quickuh than i reckon
a horse in a hog race

* an' our Sal's hooves are always salted
* she was sold as broke but
* she still a Belgian draft y'know

* so we Johansens cleared the briars on then north hill
penned 'er an' ran 'er done, up an' back
till she was soft fuh saddle

* an' broke 'er out in pa's style
he nevuh flipped the calenduh past 1985
cause by then men got softuh than horses

* switchin from twelve-gauge tuh twenny fuh grouse
* pa still loads his Ruger Red
* ovuh unduh and ten ounces heavyuh

he kept everythin old as long he could
* got his eighty-eight GMC on disc brakes
and the freezuh in the ice house

* like the amish nevuh heard of rumspringa
* an half up tuh Dresden
* w'aunt wired fer electrics

an' you spot then loose hog by the
size of then jam
it's got stoppt in then street

eitha or, dawn crept up early
eitha or—i read that in a kirkegard novel
kept in the outhouse strange enough
always thought outhouse readin should be light
and kirkegard got a way of writin solid bricks
i swear hes layin bricks not words
“Wednesday” is derived from Old English “Wōdnædæg” and Middle English “Wednesdei,” meaning “day of Wōden,” where “Wōden” is a cognate of the Norse theonym, “Óðinn,” which has been popularly anglicized as Odin.

Epsom salt gel is sometimes applied to horse hooves to draw out infection, reduce inflammation, and alleviate soreness.

An equestrian tames or breaks a horse before it’s safe for riding.

Belgian draft; gigantic horse used for tilling and towing. Notoriously difficult to break.

Johansen is the Scandinavian surname of this farm’s family, most common among Norwegians.

Soft; tired/calmed. An old-fashioned method of breaking a horse is to run it until it’s too tired to buck when the trainer bridles the saddle.

Gauge is the size of a shotgun barrel’s inner diameter, nominally expressed as the number of lead balls each just fitting that diameter required to make a pound. Twelve-gauge shotguns are heavier than twenty-gauge but supply longer range. Over time, upland game hunters favored lighter weight guns with faster handling properties.

The Ruger Red Label was a double barrel shotgun introduced in 1977 and discontinued in 2011. Initially popular among upland hunters as a reliable all-American working man’s tool, it was revered for its craftsmanship, but eventually decried and dropped for its rising manufacturing cost and derivative market price.

Over & Under double barrels gave way to auto-loaders. Many double barrel models were discontinued by most leading distributors in 2014.

Disc brakes have been replaced by dual-circuit hydraulic brakes in contemporary trucks.

Rumspringa is a year-long right of passage for Amish adolescents between 14 and 16 years old during which they experience the world outside their community. It ends when they choose Amish baptism or integration into society over the other.

Dresden is a town (pop. 2,000) in Southern Maine’s Lincoln County and home to this farm.

Either/Or (1843) is the first published work by Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard, which outlines the philosophical structure of a life as the evolution of man’s hedonism into commitment through his stages as a selfish aesthete and as an ethical human being, rent by an encounter with despair.
eitha or, dawn crept up early
ma down l-two-ninety-five South fuh Portlan’ an’ Franklin
up l-ninety-five North fuh Banguh, all pitchin markets

* fillin in fuh Katie and Jenna
who left the berry patch with warm stroke
what we call a first timuh’s heat stroke

* made me thinkin of night priuh
not half a clock ago
ma said let em off the next day

that I could take care of market
an’ pa could fill in too
let them birds get a sleep er two

pa di’nt say a word he just sat
pickin at the table cloth
he woulda had me fuh that one

tellin me idle hands
makin no ends meat
don’t shoot the shit shoot the cow

pa deliberated though
said she’d be pitchin in Banguh
and Lord’d have Franklin pitch in Portland

* on account of him bein an aesthetic
* ‘stead of a ethical an’ pa teachin him
to learn a commitment the earliest mornin demands

eitha or, pa din’t have near half a hello
* to the fewcha folk down there, makes sense
57 * they learned a new language wasn’t his english

plus he’d had a mind aftuh chores fuh
the paths an’ the South Wood ‘fore sunrise
‘fore the birds flown down intuh its seams
Interstate-295 is an auxiliary route in Maine spanning 53 miles East to West, from West Gardiner to Scarborough.

Portland, a city in Southern Maine’s Cumberland County, lies an hour south of Dresden. It is the state’s social and commercial center.

Franklin has been the Johansens’ farmhand for seven years.

Interstate-95 is the East Coast’s main highway, running from Miami, Florida to the Houlton-Woodstock Border Crossing between Houlton, Maine and Woodstock, New Brunswick.

Bangor, a city in Central Maine and the seat of its Penobscot County, lies an hour and a half North-East of Dresden.

Portland and Bangor host local farmers markets every Wednesday, where the Johansens set up stands weekly to sell their produce.

Katie and Jenna are the farm’s two apprentices who are offered training, room, and board for their labor, and replaced whenever they may choose to leave.

Priuh [sic]; prior.

Aesthetical [sic]; aesthete; the self-centered stage of man’s life, according to Kierkegaard in Either/Or.

Also defined in Kierkegaard’s Either/Or—Ethical; the stage of man’s life when he commits to societal integration and commitment itself.

Fewcha [sic]; future.

The idiolect habitual to our speaker and his pa has them out of place in Portland, Maine’s metropolitan capital.

The south woods border the farm’s southern field on the East and South.

Ruffed grouse roost in the canopy of tall, mature hardwoods, and fly to the ground at sunrise, where they can be found navigating interstitial timber seams into cover brush.
dustin off on the dirt he cleared
* breakin fast on the cluff that sprung up
* pa a quick one deceptionly layin paths like traps

an’ layin down the law fuh the house
guessin he the lawmakuh cause he so quick
an’ crackin on Franklin specially

ma thinkin he comin down on Frankie
harduh than Sal an’ Frankie gettin the
worst of the whip

prolaby cause Frankie passes on good looks
an’ makes a grump out of pa who says
Frankie gonna learn despair ‘fore he gets a “ethic”

sure Frankie always hounded with the worst whip
made tuh scrub the rotten syrup out the vat in the saphouse
then pa accidennally locked the main house doors

* Frankie said he turtled up in the sack tuh sleep but
* mosquitoes eatin through that easy
* he enned up on the outhouse floor with a constellated face

eitha or, dawn crept up early
bowels had me rushin
* like a wild dabblin in a feedlot

feel like the whole wood’s awake
bet the grouse flown down early like they had market too
pa prolaby picked the best day tuh shoot on intuition

some mornin got its men and women makin moves
some mornin just a minute aftuh night
like the whole woods nevuh slept

* kirkegard pokin out so i gas the lantern
* readin him you can’t mess around with the fat
he got more of it than ma’s prize sow
A cluff is a group of clover, an early succession legume that is one of the first plants to grow on cleared land. It is common around road beds, planted as a cover crop in fields, and a staple of the ruffed grouse early morning diet.

These paths double as a network connecting parts of the south woods and an evocation of clover luring ruffed grouse.

Sack; sleeping bag.

An insulated structure.

Dabbling [sic]: a dabbling is a type of shallow water duck that feeds primarily on the surface of the water.

A gas lantern hangs from a hook next to the door inside the outhouse.

Most of Either/Or is illegible to our speaker, so he considers it fat; it’s something that can be excised.
like gunnin deer ‘stead of bird
* one clean shot fills the pot
93 * you best aim fuh parts particularly portant

thankin tuh pa fuh the help heuh
* he musta read the whole thing then marked the x’s
96 * underlined kirkegard’s kill shots

first one i seen been marked heavy
folded page an’ penned down
99 “In addition to my other numerous acquaintances,

I have one more intimate confidant
My depression is the most faithful mistress I have known—
102 no wonder, then, that I return the love.”

* pa been given a rough up guessin
life stormed on him, weathered him like rock
105 * i respectin him though sometime respect terrifyin

* holy hell someone sleepin on the market
* Frankie’s crew cab gone but GMC sleepin in the garage
108 * the lord’d have us on a draught fuh this

* the postman goes by snow rain heat an’ gloom
but they just passin notes while the farmuh grows
111 by draught and permafrost and quakes out west

* hell ma practicably a seismometuh shed be
the first woman tuh tell a quake
114 * she’d call in WGME and put ‘em onto it

no sleepin on that, got an umbilical tuh the world
an’ at all time at least some island out there awake

117 so motha earth nevuh sleepin on ‘er baby

they callin ‘er that way in the fields
white an’ pink carnation gown an’ pickin weed masterly

120 like a ma be fixin diapuh an sewin up the soil
As you only need one deer's worth of venison to feed a family, you need read only one well-chosen sentence of Either/Or to satiate your philosophical appetite.

Pa has studied Either/Or and marked remarkable passages.

Our speaker leaves the outhouse for his bed.

He straddles the ware-and-produce house's east wall, just west of the garage and mechanics cellar.

Frankie's truck is normally parked parallel to the east wall of this stock house. The GMC, also a crew cab, is one of the Johansen's two trucks large enough to transport stock for the farmer's market.

Our speaker steps in a puddle of brake fluid where Frankie's truck would be parked.

Seismometer [sic]; seismograph. A device that measures the details of an earthquake.

WGME-TV is the CBS-affiliated television station serving southern Maine.
dawn cryin to ‘er like a child
when i was one she’d pick crop ovuh me
pa was the one had me on the bottle

same one tuh be pickin up aftuh the place
twixt spottin leaks in tractor tires an’ thens in faucets
trackin its spray tuh mold unduh wallpapuh

keepin house as best he keepin mind i guessin
someone gotta keep this spotless fuh clean thinkin
while ma an’ Franklin spreadin Reemay

an’ Lord if he don’t take that Ruger tuh my head
fuh what i just had done on his floor
black oil boot tracks showin my rush tuh the kitchen

were pa in there they be leadin right tuh caution tape
outlinin a crime scene investigation
of a boy died by disobedience

he be fumin worse than this glycol-etha
fresh out the crew cab’s hydraulics
guessin Frankie fixed his up fer a leak i stept in

but no soul still livin in this house right now
from pa’s tuh Franklin’s the beds been ‘bandoned
left tousled like dawn crept up

an’ they musta been rushin tuh follow the day
considerin the lamp knockt off the bedside
an’ the stem broken in two like it been upside a skull
eitha or, house been rousted
ma not sleepin Franklin not sleepin
pa not there

prolaby up ‘fore he slept since he takin over
Frankie’s toil rollin reemay, rotatin coops

an’ double wirin the sty tuh keep farrow from squeezin through
Our speaker was tended to by his father more than by his mother.

Reemay is a brand-name row cover—a translucent, flexible fabric spread over crop to protect them from cold, ill weather, and insect infestation.

In a hydraulic brake system, glycol-ether brake fluids are stored inside a master cylinder. When the brake pedal is pressed, a pushrod drives the pistons in the master cylinder, which forces brake fluid out of the reservoir, into a pressure chamber, towards caliper pistons that apply force to the brake pads which push against the rotor and cause the vehicle to brake.

Franklin was supposed to remove Reemay from a row of sweet peas. Rolling it up into a ball to stow for later is usually at least a two-person job.

The Johansens’ pig pen is made of fence and post, not newer hog panel which has a wire mesh with a smaller check size towards its bottom preventing any piglet’s escape. Double wiring a fence would yield the same effect.

Farrow; a litter of piglets.
maybe the ansuhs turnin up in South Field
that plot turnin bounties out of till
maybe Katie an’ Jenna turned bedsick tuh ready fuh market

maybe today been saved by two South Cabin soljuhs
sickuh than swine with bush foot an’ as stubborn tuh use em
but a sight through they window clearin things up

them sheets stiffuh than sleep
an’ the girls lookin rigid like they been put down
had me gunnin down South Field fuh the sty in the wood

normly you hearin breathin or
snufflin and mud play
once you hit the edge of the wood

but there w’aunt
all the hog clear left
prolaby lookin fuh freedom and black trumpets

i clear pissed
but i w’aunt about tuh call no one
cause the coop been wheelt to a new bed

which meanin pa took em quickuh than five meanin
he prolaby balled up the reemay quickuh than four
an’ dragged it up North Plot fuh the beets an’ cabbage

he deep woods somewhere on a real spree
pheasants prolaby beggin he let em go
but that Ruger out there clippin wings

oh Lord may not have us on draught
but he let the fuckin pigs loose
ennerin me inna one man hog callin contest
racin inna wood squealin down path
halt on hearin a mess in the brush
crept up on the hot spot low down tuh wrangle
Bush foot, the predominate player in mortality rates, is infection of the hoof.

The Johansens' pig pen is located east of South Field immediately past the South Wood treeline.

Portable chicken coops divide plots of old crop and beds of new soil that need fertilization.

North Plot: A northern plot of South Field for crops to be planted in late Summer. In New England, Beets and Cabbage are planted in August.

Alongside grouse, pheasants are a popular game bird for upland hunting.

Hog calling contests judge candidates' hog calls based on their artistry and efficacy in luring pigs to approach the caller.

Our speaker believes the disturbance to be caused by an escaped pig.
but them brush was silent of swine
one step more an’ out flew a plume of pheasant
all urgent rockets launchin up tuh nowhere fast

well if the grouse parked so close tuh camp
then where in the how is pa
one round off that Ruger clears the canopy

anotha mess in a bush next door
one step triggerin a second plume
an’ Lord’s thunduh in two rounds

heart near popt, world flared in a dilatin second
a pheasant life left its body which slaps the ground
the canopy shiverin and dustin away
two rounds off that Ruger cracks the sky
cloud soakin up true red dawn
like Lord’s cotton swabs on blood

an’ Odin in the middle of the way
standin large like one of then’s deities
a lincoln of a man his norse head moose-long

“Mornin. Pick ‘er up an’ relieve me.”
shruggin his shoulduh bouncin a wreckt arm
gesticulatin a flannel sling at that Ruger unduh the other
this man miracle makin outa hip shot
“Day dawnt on ya early, Søren.
As fer you, fer us all. Night dint last long.”

tradin the grouse fer his girl takin it sweetly
the grouse flipt an’ wings spread like Christ
“Guessin. You takin trips down South Ridge er sumpin?”

Prolaby dint see its slope we a throw from tree line.”
Ruger weighted like it empty, laid it tuh rest on a log fer all the work it did
“Mornin had its thorns but they w’aint the briars.
Lord’s thunder in two rounds; the sound of two shots let out Pa’s double barrel Ruger. He has shot at the pheasants.

Pa was named after the Norse god, Odin, fabled to be the god of royalty, battle, frenzy, healing, death, the gallows, knowledge, sorcery, poetry, and the hunt.

The Nordic skull is characteristically elongated.

Odin’s left arm is in a sling, its hand swollen with shattered bones, meaning he shot the pheasant one-handed from his hip.

Odin suspends the bird upside down, ready to clean it.

Throw; a stone’s throw.
The day meant somethin else for me.”

pa lay’n bloodied soles on Christ’s wings
his good hand poppin with blood chokin up on a leg
has me complicit, chokin the otha
“You clear right pa. Lord oughta be cursed.”
pa’ starin down at the bird, maybe past it
lookin underground at the workins of things
wincin at pain er whatevuh it was, he saw big an’ he was gone
til his chin go up meanin we heave
the legs pop out they sockets an’ in a slough of filament
featha an’ carcass unsheathin the pink gloss of breast
“Day’s still long to reap, Søren. Bunk hand’s just that.”

“Where the whole of them hog pa I near pissed I seen em gone.”
offerin the breast towards pa so he snap the neck
an’ decouple the spine from back tuh tail
a black blur of his Helle out the pocket
cut sudden as its start by a flashin of blade
“Don’t get tossed ‘bout that. Gave me a bit of they trouble—“

Helle shine slipt into roughage severin wing from ligament
like he a butcha workin on bone
fastuh than i can tell

“Yuh mother sow had me down—but she in a new pen now.
This breast is good for keepin. Hand’s a-howlerin.
To the icehouse, Søren.”

his frame lean an’ cold bone
like he livin Win’er in August
a furnace burnin last embuh of any fat
lookin like Lord shaped him from these exact wood
carved his muscles rugged with South Ridge granite
lay’n tracks fer ambuh blood outta roots of a upenned maple
Odin pins the bird's wings with his boots to ground it for quick removal of its carcass.

After carcass removal, the bare breast is left attached to the neck, head, spine, and wings.

Bunk; slang used in Maine in reference to something broken, useless, or otherwise poor.

Only the wings are left.

A popular Norwegian brand of hunting and utility knives.
his leatha field coat fringe red an' white with tailuh’d redbellies and eastern milk tail from the brush

he huntin grouse fuh food an’ snakes fuh sport

he best at scentin up fear er guilt
an’ both are fillin up in me so i best tuh confess

“Pa, no harm, but this mornin was a flurry.

Had me missteppin through a pool of glycol-etha
an’ takin it with me in house.

On my life I’ll get cleanin’ it up.”

swearin it er not guessin it a mattuh of my life eitha or
but i’ll clear piss if pa dint shake it off

no this er that, i got none of the whip

“Well, then ya probably noticed the GMC
yer ma s’posed to ride.

Brake pads seized against the disc, see.

Overheated til it had the friction surface peelin.

Got to scroungin an’ whipped ‘er up with a booster
but the reservoir cracked from this week’s heat spell,

renderin ‘er useless. That had my time borrowed.”
“Huh, guessin i was thinkin it from Frankie’s cab
considerin’ I dint near touch the garage.”

Pa palms me the raw bird

shoulders the Ruger, packin up

an’ beckonin to follow

“You a straight marvel, Søren.
Heedin on duty’s call,

tendin’ on life’s details.

No matter them how small, no matter how short yer rest.
Ya got yer mind hooked up where most lost theirs.

As yer a early riser, yer a early bloomer too.”
Nine species of snake live in Maine, including the brightest: Northern Redbelly and Eastern Milk, from whose skin pattern Odin's coat fringe derives its red and white.

Normally grouse are hunted for sport more than food, considering it's uncommon to collect more than a dozen in a season.

Brake boosters can be installed on a vehicle to modify a disc brake system into something as effective as a hydraulic brake system.

The same heat spell that has Katie and Jenna catching "warm stroke."
walkin with pa like walkin with a wizard
always eitha makin everythin from nothin
or solacin in silence

“A man’ll live to forget,
struggle or ease, there’s beauty.
You best rise an’ face the hardest mornin.

An’ if ya left yer bed early enough
yer rewarded with the sunrise
remindin ya everythin in order.”

* the wood all dead silence
sumthin bout it
finally givin the cue tuh rest

but middle of the rest
sumthin bout it ringin
* like ears aftuh switchin off a genny

“Even when ya feel somethin like a fetus
an’ the walls’re closin in,
there is beauty.

An’ in our fortune it’s nothin but
in these woods a throw out the front door.
My connivins had me lay its paths schemin on a lure for game,"
speakin of, he packin that Ruger shell fresh
‘case we blessed with dinner on top the lunch on hand
or ‘case a snake tuh be dealt with an’ pa bouta collect a new trophy

“but they a regular attraction for more than easy shot.
These paths are for a man to walk with himself.
These woods got muses from emergence to root.

Spirit's heard easiest in silence.
Its frequency is anxious,
* concentrated, cleans the body like ginseng,
Genny; slang for a generator.

Cleansing properties are attributed to ginseng by some.
which may start ya reelin like a repellant.
Ya may press yer mind to think over it
but, after 'nough walking,

ya find comfort in its dependability
ya feel the sudden invigoration of a fed flame
like a damper come unstuck and opened."

hopin that's warmth enough tuh face the icehouse
cause August w'aint this cold 'fore now
half expectin' pond steam tuh roll uphill

“I've come to reckon my name, Odin, a deceptive amulet
from the god chief of then kin yers and mine,
derivative of 'wodaz' meanin prophet.

On one hand it's my sightly gift, speakin literal too.
On the other it could curse me a hermit over the hill
’cause other words it birthed would have me known as

* mad, frantic, furious, by thens ancestors
* an' possessed by all others. As it were prescribed to me,
life been a meditation on madness."

pa bettuh fuhgot to prop the garage door
while unduh the GMC cause he talkin like his head filled
like the glycol-etha snaked its way up his nasal

he always the cleauh calm aftuh wicked weatha
even 'fore its passed, like not a drop get him
guessin the storm inside the man so he at home in the real thing

“Now, don't hear me out as a concluder
cause if ya livin ya got figurin to do
but this figurin i done and resolve to act upon

as my final figurin.
Seers were diagnosed bunkly
by a bunch of citizen doctors:
The airflow through a wood stove feeding the fire is regulated by a lever called a damper.

“Wodaz” is a Proto-Germanic adjective, the root of the theonym, ‘wodanaz,’ which derived the Old English “Wōden,” a cognate of the Norse theonym, “Óðinn,” which has been popularly anglicized as “Odin.”

“Wodaz” was substantivized into adjectives in Old Norse, Old English, Middle Dutch, and Old High German…

...From which such definitions as these, listed, can be derived.
mad for seein what others maynt.  
Well, don’t the whole of Lord’s litter got this issue— 
born with separate eyes for damn sake.”

fragmentated by its gnarl bough and wisp 
glimpse of stone dome lurkin in the wood 
like a chapel tomb outta seventeenth century

ice fog in sight now, 
driftin unduh pine, 
crystal curlin tuh trunk

* “Mine’re burdened by its beholdins 
* of the pageless book 
* followin the final period."

the icehouse got an arctic bubble round it 
stiffens trees tuh crackt statues 
a radius of suspended life still ‘cept floatin dust

slaps me out my thought 
beigin eyes open, bewitchin senses, 
pullin me inna reach

“I’m not maddened by the contents of my sight.  
It’s the sentence before that period that’s most maddenin 
since afterwards there’s nothin to behold.”

* wooden doors to the icehouse built squat outta white pine 
* cause it take on watuh like wheat so it insulary 
heat nor cold nor nothin makin it out those doors

“An’ nothin to behold, to me, 
has come to signal no end, 
only the mark of a revolution.”

them hefty too, got us pushin like budgin Sal ‘fore she ready 
gotta be driven by need 
tuh mustuh up crackin ‘em the slightest
Odin claims his eyes are trained on the end times, as were his namesake’s according to Norse mythology.

White pine has one of the higher thermal capacities out of New England timber.
“It’s a man’s passin but he a perennial flower,
his life coaxed from his death, a regrowth governed by cycles
whose ends are only ever supersessions by a beginnin.”

doors let an’ w’aint fuh the shock of cold
i practicably tumble through
tensin joints an’ seizin muscle had me stick-stiff

met by arctic gust an’ shocked dumb from movin
“A seed of a universe sprouts an’ expands to replace the old.”

life stopt an’ held in this chamber
dilatin seconds stretcht tuh bear no end
thick wall lined with hay an’ sawdust
at least a ton large slab cut from the pond

in the chambuh dugout, that blue whale
hissin up thicket of mist lickin
slow risin an’ crawlin’ toward the heat
grippin at our leg tryna make it out
“We got time in our microcosm an’ Lord has me a believer in
findin hints for describin the next ‘fore we sleep on this one,
an’ he layn ‘em out, they called allegories.
If ya look, he laid ‘em plain. The perennial man, fer instance,
have us onto that concept through the cycle of four seasons.

Outside this microcosm, a man live a life like a year come an’ go.
First, he a toddlin Frankie, the aesthete extractin pleasure fer his sake.
No mind about the Lord’s good er rest of the litter.

Well, Franklin has himself a mess,
never tells life what to do. All’s conducted by caprice
an’ wreckless romancin,
rarely seein past a splendorous image into its workins.
Man’s a kid an’ he more about the idea of bein a farmer
than he ever shown he about actually bein one.”
The anatomy of this ice house is as such: the white pine double doors lead onto a 12’ by 5’ rectangular platform, its length running parallel to a half-cylindrical chamber with a recessed floor that is 6’ lower than the platform’s, whose radius is 10’. Along the center of the cylindrical wall, nestled into the layers of insulation, are two bay doors large enough to allow transport of feet-long ice blocks. This is the ice pit. A large franken-slab of ice harvested from South Pond fills it nearly up to the platform’s height. On the right end of the platform is a box filled with crushed ice. On the left end of the platform is a wooden hatch. This hatch opens to a stairwell which lowers 6’ over its length of 4.5’. At its bottom, immediately to the right, is the door to the freezer—a cellar stocked with shelving and meat hooks to store the perishables inside of it.

Blue whale; the ice slab.
cuttin fuh icebox
through frosted air
like it don’t strip our skin

“One day a man in then Franklin stage
may notice empires around him not all Lord’s paintins;
they built by menly hands, not Gods’.

An’ he just a man all the same, surely? He wonderin
the difference between those men who erected monuments
an’ himself.

After a fret he discern his subjection’s to whimsy an’
drawn to immediate gratification,
he spent his years in a private ether,
ennertainin ephemeral pursuits
while the ground b’low him stock’d with men
plantin seeds an’ reapin what they sown.”

layn two hand on ‘er lid
practically dead on contact
like straight stingin nettle

“Down there lookin good an’ green an’ nothin disablin him
so he ventures in plantin one himself. But,
days an’ showers an’ his seed still lower than dirt
‘cause he collaboratin with fallow field
an’ no crop grows in fallow field,
so he takes to tillin, passions in tow.

But that’s a trial of sundry toils,
makin for a story altogether
foreign and depressin.”

pa chins up an’ we liftin
oh may Lord e’scuse me
chest gaspt like lung suckt up damned freon
new air somehow
more damn frozen
shocked my whole system

“He gets ugly, cursin the Lord an’ other men
an’ he learns despair,
man’s second season.

It has its turn with him like the others
but the bounty of his first crop
may do some convincin.

His back bent,
His hand broke,
His body stroked by heat an’ bit by frost,"

pa himself lookin a sorta unearthly
a sallow thing with sunken eyes
shattuhd bone minglin in its blackt an’ swollen club

“but his till produced the inklin of an empire,
the food to feed its people,
an the man to rule ‘em.”

whole room on shallow breath
harsh an’ buzzin with electrics
pa stannin there with ice on his club

“Given he fersake urge fer choice—
choice bein the agency of man’s third season—
to work his life like the farmer work his land,

an’ study on the operations of ration,
like he would a novel bible or kamasutra or whatever
an aesthete vouches by in the latrine,

an’ devotes his hand on his heart
as a student of its ethic,
then he gracin himself with a steady hand on his life.
Swollen club; Odin’s hand.
Way I see it, woke to third season's dawn
when I traded myself for this farm,
this family, an' this soil."

air so thin can't hardly make a word
only a mind fuh puttin the grouse to rest in the icebox
an' gettin cleuh out the icehouse
doin the job tossin the bird in
pa pick 'er up an' offer 'er back
“She goes down hatch.”

that hatch in the cornuh
lookin like no one's best move
just a way down storage an' anotha ten degrees

“If my Sal an' me were pavin path
wide 'nough—on account of accomodatin a family
I presumably bringin with me to the frontier—
then Franklin an' yer ma were a stuck lot,
theyself in the ditch on the side of it.
Sure they had they fun,

but, if even for the love of they life,
ever quit stuntin to grow.
All souls adrift oughta be guided home.

Subject to they whimsies,
Lord never graced 'em
with Summa, Fall, or Win'er.”

pa's speech lost on me
whole of the mind bent on stokin coals
hatch follows pa's chin
stairwell er a vortex
chambuh light seeps intuh its pitch
room hit absolute zero
Odin and Søren open the hatch together and begin down the staircase.
“It take those few men, 
  willed theyself into  
  Win’er’s final quarter,

  devotin theyself to piety, 
  for whom leaves are fallen 
  an’ sky bares itself through the canopy

  to see what the aesthete, blinded by theyself 
  an’ the ethical, tethered to the ground, cannot.

  Those few men

  layn they eyes 
  an’ lent they ears 
  to the end of all things.”

  time drainin downstairs 
  like it oozin unduh freezuh door 
  where it layn at rest

  faces dissolvin intuh shroud 
  jus black statue pa 
  on the handle offerin me the way

  “They’s to forward the news to the rest of men. 
  I am one of these men. My name an’ its sake, they no coincidence. 
  They a touch of divinity.”

  pushin pushin damn compellin this thing 
  one bad shoulder to it an’ 
  busted ‘er through an’ cleuh flung myself ontuh concrete

  body seekin mercy from this wretched floor too goddamn cold, 
  proppin up my hand feelin like it gone intuh straight shit 
  “Eugh”—Pa, hit the light.”

  scramblin off floor else it gonna have me stuck to it 
  *springin up has my foot lost on the left, swingin out—

  *SKREEEEE—“HOLY HELL! Damn hog down here! Just pegged one!”
A pig squeals.
all a sudden hearin they snufflin an’ chewin
like theys feastin on slop,
513
pa got the lights startin on they flickerin

Oh shit the whole of them hog in ‘ere, uh?
All in a circle gorgin on sumptin fresh bloodied
516
scrap of white guessin these hog hungry got it stript tuh bone

I screechin at em tuh scattuh
out my way of the shelf
519
“Go’n git!”

skedaddlin like guilty goblins
a swarm of screechin ants back to they holes
522
couple still pickin at this mess

a long mess,
clean skinned too,
525
aside on the ground ript scrap of sumptin

fabric thin,
white an’ pink
528
carnations

“Oh my fuckin
Lord, what the fuck
531
Lord, what the fuck—”

bone
blue eye
534
black hair

* “Soren, I’ve delivered the news to the others.
To Katie, Jenna, Franklin, and his lover.
537
Now you, my son, are all that’s left, ‘fraid.”

Red Ruger
Dead eye down sight
540
No light
Odin's Ruger Red is pointing at Søren, Odin's eye aligning him with the iron sight.
“As dawn crept up early on us this day,  
so has dusk,  
an' so shall night.”