

Singing Back the Darkness

KP Liles

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What a Wonderful World

Doves were at war. Wingless angels prowled the streets with billy clubs and jacked cars for kicks. I didn't mind. I drank wine with breakfast while enjoying the standup routine of a comic lacking any semblance of self-confidence. Infants lined the bar, and there was a nursery for adults. I owned a gorgeous house without walls and lived uncomfortably in a time without passing. An empty Trojan horse forced me from my kingdom and into the desert where I wandered eons with a bear that didn't hibernate. Plants grew in darkness. People fought by kissing, made truces by murder. Everyone searched frantically for a happiness called Pain and proved amazingly generous with greed. I achieved fitness in stillness, learned to calm my mind into a rage. I accepted a fate with choices and accumulated inattentive disciples. A childhood without imagination occupied my memory and somehow I became trapped in a casino that forbid betting, run by burka-clad hookers. I hardly need to say that when my eyes opened I couldn't tell if I was awake or dreaming, but, get this—when I showed up for work, I began weeping uncontrollably, and for the life of me I had no clue if I was in store for a tragic victory or a marvelous defeat.

Divorce Blues

Woke up this morning to a grave-dark dawn.
Woke up screaming into the grave-dark dawn
under a slab of air. My wife long gone.

At work, in dream, each meal, I see her face.
I go breathless each time I see her face.
She's made a mortuary of this place.

I feel nothing she said when our love died.
I feel nothing for you and our love died.
No, there's no one else, eyes nails as she lied.

Less than a year after our fateful day.
Over a year after our fateful day
I smell honey—hydrangeas, her bouquet.

The young woman in white my wife. My wife!
God, stop her now from burying my life.

Froot Loop Infinity and Beyond

I pour the remnants of cereal into the sink and watch the multi-colored
stars for breakfast ; for three, maybe five seconds, milky wash
delight in having eaten in the universe. And then I'm staring
and I understand everything of eternal wonder. heaven spins
and I understand everything of eternal wonder. into the stainless steel oblivion
and I understand everything of eternal wonder. whirl around the drain—
and I understand everything of eternal wonder. marvel at the grainy galaxy
and I understand everything of eternal wonder.