

The City Dwellers Complex

City Dwellers is an ongoing sound-based installation project.

It has been going on since 2017, and so far lead to seven presentations and try-outs:

City Dwellers # 1 – 4 at KHiO March 2019.

City Dwellers # 5 and *6* at Vega scene September – November 2019 and *City Dwellers #7* at Gallery Bananaz February 2020.

City Dwellers # 8 and *9* will be presented at Intonal (Malmö) and at Vårscenefest (Tromsø) the spring of 2020.

City Dwellers consists of a pool of 400 texts recorded in studio and on site.

These texts/voices are either written texts (from this pool), or improvisations on these written texts. Things that occur in the studio while recording. In the recording sessions, new texts emerge inspired by the “old”.

Some of the texts in this compilation are also quotes or over-writings of texts from facebook, film, tv, general conversations etc.

In the studio many languages are in use (Norwegian, English, Swedish, French, Farsi, Arabic, Islandic, Dutch and so on).

All the work represented here is in English.

I also work with sociolects and dialects.

The tone in the readings are everyday and verbal, even when the texts has a more literary value. They texts are never “played”/acted out, but sometimes the texts themselves or the situations that occur in the studio lends color and temperament to the reading. I try to make the texts tone, rhythm, content etc. as “active” as the prepared interpretations in the recording situation.

The readers are actors, colleagues, people I bump into, friends and family, and many of the texts have been through several recordings with many different writers. It is this sound-material that is the bases for the works when I compose them.

In the finished work polyvocality and simultaneity is of the essence. On paper – this is not easy to “copy”, so here you find the texts as material, organized according to a very rough timeline. This means that the more historical material comes first, while the contemporary follows later. Many of the texts are repeated and used several times in works. One could say that a new meaning or a new texts appear, as it gets read a different ways or by a different voices.

In a written compilation of the ground-texts like this, – this will not show. So consider this as what it is – a pool of material to be recorded, composed, combined and recombined.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT
Wine-leaves everywhere
So thick it covers everything
Deer in the woods
and squirrels
and everything wild
Apples and plums
and turkey, and quail, and pheasants and woodcock
and we're growing melons, and peaches
and plumbs and pears and apples, mulberries and grapes

and there are wild bees for honey, and aromatic herbs growing wild
And locals
paddling along the ship all the way up-river
eager to trade

2

WATCH OUT!
Don't mess it up!

Don't drop that cargo
You have no idea what those crates are worth

And there is more where that's coming from
Fifteen barrels just on this ship!

3

NO, GO FOR THE OAKS
Take the big ones first
The hardwood
The hazel

Go for the hazel!

4

A
SO WHAT DID HE BRING THE COMMANDER?
A wife -
Crates of brandy, certainly
and three horses –

B
Two

A
?

B
Two horses, sir
In the end sir
One of them died sir
the day he arrived

5

SHOW THAT SHOVEL INTO THE EARTH BOY!
Can you feel it
Soft as butter. You just sink into it
Have you ever seen earth as black as that
Like butter – I'm telling you –
Cutting through that earth like butter, boy

6

A

I THINK WE ARE READY FOR PLOUGHING

B
With what?

A
It's the season

B
With what I say
There is only one horse – and he owns it

A
-

B
We can't pay for it

A
I know we can't pay for it
-

I'll be the horse

You heard me – I'll be the bloody horse

7

IT'S A GIRL!

Version 1:
It's a girl!
It's a girl!

Version 2:
See Marie Therese
See!
A girl!
It's a girl

8

BORN ON THE SECOND OF FEBRUARY (while writing it down)

Born on the second of February
in the settlement
A girl

9

I'M JUST GOING DOWN TO THE LAND

version 1:
I'm just going down to the land
Just for a minute

Just to see

Just to check that everything is ok

No, don't worry

It's going to be alright

I'm just going down to check the crops
To draw some water

Short pause

It's only for a little while

Look the neighbours are up
You can see the lights in the window

Just you go over to them

You can go over to them if you feel like it

Short pause

Ok

Ok

Just stay here then
love
This is our land now
Our house

—

Hush

Listen

How silent
How silent it is

10

DON'T WAIT UP
Go to bed – I will take care of it

11

WHAT DID YOU SAY DEAR?

12

GOD IT HASN'T RAINED FOR WEEKS
I wish it would rain

13

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

14

HUSH

15

IT'S MINE

version 1:

It's mine

They gave it to us

We never took it

version 2:

They gave it to me

version 3:

This is my land now my house

We never took it –

They gave it to me – And it hasn't rained for weeks

Version 4:

I am just going down to the

land

Just to check that everything is ok

version 5:

This is the place

This is my house

Not taken

They gave it to me

16

LISTEN

version 1:

Listen

version 2:

Listen

How silent

You can almost hear the river

You can almost hear the grass grow

17

I'VE NEVER BEEN A GODFEARING PERSON

version 1:

I've never been a God-fearing person

version 2:

A

I've never been a God-fearing person

B

I believe in God

I pray every night

18

I BELIEVE IN GOD
I pray every night

19

STARTS HUMMING AND CONTINUES TO DO SO

20

STARTS HUMMING, CURSING OR PRAYING

21

LOOK – THE NEIGHBOURS ARE UP

22

SO CAN YOU DO THAT?
Look after it?
Just for a minute?
the dog
– That dog
It
it just keeps on barking
There is no way we can -
It just barks and barks
every time anybody moves
sits
stands – It's such a light sleeper
just opening a door sets it off and then
it can keep it going for hours

23

TURN AROUND
and smile
– yes.
Just like that!

And twirl!

24

SEVEN MARRIAGES

version 1:
Seven marriages
Seven marriages we celebrated that year

version 2:
Seven marriages
Seven marriages in 1712 – and 43 baptisms
43 baptisms

and 15 deaths

And then –

The fire

25

FIRE-SESSION:

1. Fire
2. What fire?
3. Who said fire?
4. The forts burning!
5. There is a fire on the lose!
6. Wild-fire?
7. Get it under control!
8. The animals
We have to get the animals out
9. Hoist those water-bucket's
10. There is no stopping this one
11. Close the gates
12. We need the horses
13. It's out of control
14. Get down to the river
15. The forts burning down to the ground!
16. God have mercy on us!

26

ARE YOU THERE?

version 1:

Are you there?

version 2:

Are you all there?

27

I AM HERE

version 1:

I am here

version 2:

Yes, mummy is here

ALWAYS, ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

WE ARE A FAMILY NOW, AND FAMILIES STICK TOGETHER

DEAR MOTHER (while writing it down)

Der mother
 how is it with all of you at home
 we had a fire
 The summers was so warm and this fire was relentless
 No
 No (corrects him/herself)
 Dear mother
 how is it with all of you at home
 we are fine
 There was a fire her at the fort, a few weeks ago
 but we are alright now

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Version 1:
 Remember to wash your hands

Version 2:
 Remember to wash your hands
 And your face!

IT WILL ALL BE FINE

WE'RE GROWING CORN AGAIN NOW
 and melons, and peaches
 plumbs and pears and apples, mulberries and grapes

WATCH OUT!
 Don't mess it up!
 Don't drop that log!

35

SO WHAT DID YOU BRING?

A new lamp?

A new wife?

A plow, seeds, horses?

Crates of brandy?

We could sure need it!

36

GOD ITS HOT

Version 1:

God its hot

Version 2:

God its hot, this summer

37

AND IT HASN'T RAINED FOR WEEKS

Version 1:

And it hasn't rained for weeks

Version 2:

And it hasn't rained for weeks

I wish it would rain

38

IT WAS SUCH A HOT SUMMER

Another incredibly hot summer

And a baker went to the mill with some flour

And the grass was all brown

And the hay was all yellow

And he knocked some ash from his

pipe

39

DON'T WORRY

the dogs fine

40

NO!

41

NOT AGAIN!

42

THERE IS NO STOPPING THIS ONE

43

THERE WILL BE NO SAVING US THIS TIME!

44

AND AFTERWARDS THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT

The town gone

They say they rigged an altar up in the orchard – and held services in the open air

45

HUSH ITS ALRIGHT

It's alright

Husssshhssss

It's going to be alright

I'm here now

It's going to be aaaaalright

46

I AM HERE NOW

47

COME TO THE WINDOW AND LOOK

A

Look

Look

Come to the window and look

Ponies

Wild ponies

Wild ponies in the street

B

Oh – their back

They've come for the salt

In the barrel's – Outside Mr Marks shop

A

Who owns them?

B

Some farmers – Before – Nobody now, I think

A

–

Look at that white one

Aaaall white

It's all shiny, isn't? Like a silver spoon

THEY ARE SHOOTING AGAIN

A
Mum
They are shooting again

Down by the river
Up in the hills

B
It's nothing

A
I heard it
I heard it all true the night

B
It's just some kids fooling around
You'll see

A
No -The dogs went wild with barking
I think they've killed somebody

ON THE 6th OF JUNE (while writing it down maybe)

A
On the 6th of June 1706
the dog from the colony
 bites a local man

B
No it wasn't -

A
It wasn't what?

B
It was a local dog
Not a one of ours
a downstream dog -

A (correcting his report)
– a downstream dog ...
And –

B
– it was a a consequence of him kicking the dog, the local
an *upstream* local
He was so severely beaten by commander that –

A
That -

B
He died.
He died, sir

A

The dog died?

B

No, the priest

The priest, sir

He was walking in his garden, and then he was captured, –

by upstream locals – and then a Chief ordered they release him, the priest, –

but when he was to pass through the Fort gate

he was shot dead by another local and the commander –

he ordered the garrison of 15 soldiers to fire and then then they killed them, sir.

He was walking in his garden, and then he was captured, –

by upstream folk – locals –

and then they ordered to release him,

the priest,

but he was shot dead –

by another local and the commander –

he ordered the garrison of 15 soldiers to fire and then then they

killed them, sir.

A

–

B

Thirty of them

All dead

A

Thirty dogs

B

Thirty locals, sir

A

30 dead

B

Upstream locals.

And then the locals tried to get some other locals from the north to join them

and when they refused, the locals from down here attacked the northerners

and then the siege happened

And now, – and now the count is asking the Governor to intercede –

50

WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS FOR A REASON

Version 1:

Whatever happens, happens for a reason

Version 2:

Whatever happens has already happened, they say

Version 3:

Whatever more could happen after this?

Version 4:

All that can happen has already happened to us

51

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT

52

ONCE BESIEGED BY THE LOCALS

And twice burned to the ground

53

SO THERE WAS THIS DOG

eh

It was a like a local dog but, but not from – not from our area

but from downstream

and hmm

it bit the commander and ah

as it happened

the commander ended up killing him eh or was it him

I am not sure

but it was the priest – anyway who got dead

he was – he was walking in his garden

and eh and eh

the dog bit the guy

and he got so angry that he went and killed the priest

(small laugh)

this local guy from – from upstream

and then the commander gathered 15 soldiers

and they shot all of them, all the locals

like 30 of them

all dead

And that's how it started (based on impro on text 49 in the studio)

54

AND ALL THIS – WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THAT DOG?

And all this – what does it have to do with that dog?

Or that priest?

Or that incident in 1706?

55

WELL, THEY SHOT THEM

thirty dead

Thirty locals

And then they started moving them up the river

We came up the river

and others came down

And soon they will have nowhere to go

56

NO GOD

– it cannot be –

Could it?

I DON'T KNOW

version 1:
I don't know

version 2:
Well, I don't know

THEY CAN'T DO US ANYTHING, CAN THEY?

COULD YOU PASS THE JAM?

I DON'T LIKE THEM BEING THAT CLOSE TO MY HOUSE

DID YOU SEE HIM?

Did you see him?
That local man
The one with the hat?

THE LOCALS
They hide in the water
And then they are there
In the night
And
tsjjjkk
they take their knives out

STOP IT!
You are frightening the children

THEY SWIM UPSTREAM
I saw them
I see them

THE ARMY IS MOVING THEM FURTHER DOWN THE RIVER

66

WHAT'S THAT DOG BARKING FOR?

67

TAKE THE DOG DEAR

68

WHAT DO THEY WANT HERE?

69

HE WAS JUST

He was just

Just outside the window

70

DID YOU TELL THEM?

That we don't want them

We don't want them here

71

THEY ARE HERE FOR THE TRADE

72

THEY WON'T COME

Version 1:

They won't come

Not tonight

Nothing will come of it

Version 2:

It Won't come here, will it?

73

WAR CRIES

War cries

74

THIS WAR

This war – there is no end to it

75

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US

76

THEY SAY

Version 1:

They say they are moving inland

Version 2:

They say its all up to the government now

Version 3:

They say It's going to be aalright

77

IT WAS THE FALL

It was the fall of 1790

There had been assaults all through the summer

The army was moving the locals inland

And then two local tribes repelled one assault – killing 183 soldiers in the process

and then in the

spring

it was such bad weather – west of the river, – and we had just a few guards there and no
barricades

it happened in the morning during breakfast –

78

IT SOUNDED LIKE THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF THEM

79

DON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR THE RIVER

Promise me

80

THEY ARE CROSSING THE RIVER!

81

I TOLD YOU

I told you

I told you

I told you they'd come in the nigh

82

OVERRUN
Totally overrun
by locals
Upstream locals
The camp was decimated and then
the army took revenge
It was a bloodbath

Hundreds dead

I don't know –

What a fucking surrender

83

WE WERE OVERRUN

Version 1:
We were overrun

Version 2:
We were overrun
Totally overrun

Version 3:
What are we?
Overrun?

Version 4:
We were overrun
Totally overrun
by locals
Upstream locals

The camp was

decimated
and then the army took revenge

84

WHAT A FUCKING

Version 1:
What a fucking surrender

Version 2:
What a fucking bloodbath

Version 3:
What a fucking bloodbath

Hundreds dead

85

WHAT A SENSELESS USE OF GUN POWDER

Version 1:
What a senseless use of gunpowder

Version 2:
What a riotous waste of gunpowder

86

THERE WERE ALL THESE STORIES

There are all these stories
Such as having his soldiers go through the mess-line at mealtime
over and over again – to give the appearance of being many
to those watching from the other side of the river
An army three times its actual size

87

ITS MINE VARIATIONS

1:
It's mine

2: It's mine
They gave it to me

It's my children's

It's my children's children's

4:
It belongs to my family

5:
It's mine
We never took it
They gave it to us

6: It belongs to my family

7: It's mine
We've worked for this in generations

8: Its theirs
It's their future

9: It's mine
It's all we
have

The soil
The food on my table
A mans honour

88

THE BOAT

They say that their boat hit a rock and broke in two
that she tried to jump

that she tried to jump the ship with her baby daughter on her hip and that when the found
her

washed up on the shore

she had pieces of gold sewn into her skirts ...

89

THERE WAS THIS RUMOU

about this relative of mine – It was kind of a story too
that went around in the family, about this uncle, or a cousin that had fallen in the battle of
Midway Creek
and that was exhumed from his grave to be taken home here to this local cemetery that does
not exist anymore – that cemetery
They say there is a bakery there now, – after the fire and all.
Anyway – before they took him here

they boiled him

his bones

in this big cauldron

and stuffed the remains into to saddlebags

and so they took the bones here, by horse overland – And they say, – some folks say – and
my grandaunt Hilda always used to say, -

That his ghost still walks the flint hills

along the highway up there, looking for the missing bones that they say fell out from the
saddle-bags.

90

200 HUNDRED WOUNDED

Bruised heads, black eyes, bloody noses

But no deaths

91

THERE ARE THESE STORIES

Such as soldiers going through the mess line over and over again –
to give the appearance of being an army three times its actual size

92

THE CAMP WAS DECIMATED

And then the army took revenge

93

THE KILLING WAS RELENTLESS

94

THIS CITY HAS SO MANY MANES:

Stove City, Dry Dock City, Cigar City, Salt City,
Black Earth City, River City, Beyond the river City
Big City, Woodland City, Green City, Runaway City –
I don't know what to call it anymore

95

HE FELL
Both his leg
His back
they broke
He will never walk again
Talk again
Both of them
Broke
Like matchsticks
His left arm – in five different places
No point trying to fix it
He just lies there
But his face is the same
I feed him
Wash him
Not a word
His eyes watching me
My man
My man
His face just the same
Not a scratch – just blood pouring out of his left air

They said he was dead
But I knew he wasn't
He will live
I don't hate him for it
For living
For falling
It just sucks the blood out of me
There is no warmth in this house anymore
All the children
Even the youngest out
working
At the mill, at the works, at the chicken-farm
No coal left for the fire
Tonight I will sleep with the dogs

96

I'LL JUST GO DOWN TO THE LAND version 2

I'm just going down to check the crops

I'm just going down to check the crops
To draw some water

Don't sit up

Go to bed – I will take care of it

I'LL JUST GO DOWN TO THE LAND version 3

I'll just go down to the land

I'll just go down to the land

Just for a minute

Just to see

Just to check that everything is ok

No, don't worry

It's going to be alright

I'm just going down to check the crops
To draw some water

Don't sit up

Go to bed

Short pause

Why should you?

Why should you worry?

Why should you sit up?

It's only for a little while

Pause

Look the neighbours are up
their just across the street
You can see the lights in the window

Just you keep the lights on
Just you go over to them
You can go over to them if you feel like it

Ok

Ok

Just stay here then love
Just you warm yourself some milk
The children are sleeping

They are sleeping I say
It's all safe I say
This is our land now
Our house

97

WHO CARES WHO RULES THIS PLACE

The fort has gone to seed
and it's a puddle of mud in the autumn
and we are practically snowed in winter
Not brick house in sight
Why on earth would people want to fight over this place

98

BORN ON THE 17th OF NOVEMBER

In the middle of a thunderstorm at Point Gross
Dead at four o'clock in the morning
on the 20th
Father's name Boy
Mother's name Betty

SHE WAS LIKE THAT, MY BABY
soft as beeswax she was born

birdlike

100

BIRDFACE

Be close
Betty-birdface
I will still marry you
in a sandpit
In a bakery, in a butcher-shed
I promise
I promise as before – I will be bothersome like a
brother
I'll be fierce
Like a new-born – and Boy to
no one

101

DON'T CRY

Version 1:
Don't cry

Version 2:

A
Don't cry

B
I'm not

102

I CAN'T MAKE HER STOP CRYING

103

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US

104

I DON'T SEEM TO DO ANYTHING RIGHT

105

THEY SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD
Hung him in a tree – took all his clothes off and left him there
This boyans
Just left him there – hanging
Outside the school
Yes

It was a school
And you know the birds
The birds – they always go for the eyes

No my aunt told me
She saw it herself

106

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED

Straight through the head

107

ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR

108

THEY SHOT HIM

A
They shot him

B
Who?

A
That walker

He just passed by – and they shot him
I cannot believe it

It's the boyans – they did it

109

IT WAS A LOCAL
He did it

110

THAT'S A LIE

111

WHO'S A LIAR!
I saw it myself

112

I DON'T LIKE THEM

A
I don't like them coming up here

B
The natives bought them
its labour

113

A
FUR-TRADER ASKIM OWNED EIGHT
William of Gross Point owned 2
and the mayor, nobody knew how many he had

B
Not many, I'm sure

A
—

B
Not natives anyway —
I
know
He only let God-fearing people into his home

A
Strange people these boyans

B
I would not call them people

A
What would you call them? Beasts?

B
Not people at least

114

BEATRICE

A
Beatrice?

B
He called her that

C
And you received him?
In your tea-rom

B
That man Boy is just a boy

C
Who's the mother?

A
Betty

B
Aren't they all called Betty?

A

A domestic

C

That scrawny thing in the kitchen?

B

Beatrice

That's a name to pick

What about it!

C

This baby

This Beatrice creature – That boy ...

Surely he – we all – knew she would not live

his mother being like that

No meat on her

A/C

–

A

The boy wants to put it on her tombstone

That's why he stands there

That's why he stands there and just won't leave

As if it wasn't enough with the upstream and the downstream ganging up all through the summer

115

IT'S JUST NOT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY

That he had boyans

116

NO

No

No no no – Not him. He never had any

117

THAT'S JUST A RUMOUR

118

WHAT RUMOUR?

119

I GUESS THERE WERE LAWS AGAINST IT

120

NOT UP HERE

121

MANY DID

122

NOT ANYMORE

There is a law against it now

123

YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR THE BANTER

going on

All the boyans playing cards

Over at Mr Marks shop

124

SHOW ME THAT HAND

125

BEEN NO BETTER HAND THAN MINE

put down a bet or nothing will come of
it

126

BE BRAVE

Bet

better

127

COME HOME

128

AND IN HIS SHOP

And in his shop there were photographs of abbeys and ancient places. Of birches, brooks, canals, cattle, churches, cottages, crags, crosses – dingles, farms, ferns, foxgloves, gables, ivy, land, locks, oaks, ponds, rustic bridges, and tombs – and watermills, windmills, walls and woods.[i]

129

I SAW HER, I SAW HER!

that black eyed, olive-skinned maid I told you about!

I saw her

In the marked – she was there!

She's not from here

She is from the other side of the tracks

She was there

At the marked

She got on this pony-cart

With this family

It's true
It's true – She really exist

130

KISS ME

131

DON'T GO

132

WE HAVE EVERYTHING HERE (while writing a letter)

We have everything here

More than you can imagine

Troops of locals

with big baskets and skins burning big fires and shouting
and dancing their war-dances

And hunters

with bales of beaver, mink and fox outside the trading-stores

Stale old judges with powdered wigs and officers

with brilliant scarlet uniforms – gold lace and sword-knots

And ladies

with crimson petticoats and beehive bonnets

and now and then the ponies

Wild ponies

Black and white and brown just scurrying through town

133

I WANNA SEE THE PARADE!

I wanna see the parade!

I wanna see the parade!

Please mum

Please I wanna see it

I wanna see the parade!

I wanna see the parade!

I wanna see the parade!

134

CAN WE SEE IT?

135

YOU CAN'T STOP ME FROM SEEING IT?

136

COME ON EVERYBODY

Version 1 :

Come on everybody!

Version 2:

Come on everybody!

you too woman

We're off to the park to see the elephant!

137

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

138

DID YOU SEE THE PARADE?

I mean – what a silly thing to drag through those swampy streets

What did it look like?

It did not even look like a boat

It looked like a badly shaped canoo mounted on wheels

139

BUT

Don't you wish that you had been out there?

Just to see the

parade

140

THAT SCHOOL

A

No, I don't like her going there

To that school

B

What do you mean, that school?

A

I wish she could go to the other school

B

But that's all the way across town

I don't understand

Why would you want that?

All her friends go there, they learn French

Why would you want to drag her all across town?

A

-

B

-

A

-

B

Why would you do that to her?

-

Is it that teacher?

A

-

B

That's just a rumour

A

It's the truth

B

We do not know that

A

I don't want her near him

I don't want that woman anywhere near my child

B

She is a good person, I have spoken to her

A

She has been teaching locals

B

She is just an idealist

A

Even downstream locals

B

She means well – she's just...

A

You don't understand

B

She's just mislead

Look

I'll make sure

I'll make sure that none of the boys will have any of her classes

Now calm yourself

Just calm yourself

THE CARNEVAL

B

Pauls going as a bear

A

Why don't you go as the president or something?

B
Nobody likes the president

C
Who is the president, mum?

A
You can go as a -

B
As a -

A
As a

B
As a soldier – that’s cool

C
But I want to be a snow-leopard

B
You can’t go as a snow-leopard stupid

142

WHO WANTS TO PLAY!

143

YES YES

YES YES YES YES

144

I WANTED THIS FERRET
That’s all I wanted it
I’d seen them
People having them
As pets
White once
All cute and lively and cuddly one that I could train
and go rabbit hunting
But my mum said no
Just no
Whatever – just no
But my grandfather – he loved me

He could never say no to anything and so he bought me this ferret
An old one
not a baby one
a cute one, but this old, one-eyed, mean-looking, smelly old ferret that smelled
Gigantic
Too big for its cage
And I did not dare to take it out or hold it
Or anything
It was just in there
Staring at me
and then one day
it just escaped
and my sister had this cat
this beautiful, white cat
and it killed it
the ferret
my sister's cat
there
in the living room

145

STAY

146

I DON'T LIKE THESE RULES

147

WAIT

148

LOOK AT ME

149

DON'T LOOK AT ME

150

THE QUEEN

B
The queen

A
The queen?
She's like 70!

B
So who do you want to be?

HE HAS ACRES AND ACRES OF FRUT TREES
And flowers from all over the world

And in the evening, all the paths are brilliantly
lit
and there is a garden restaurant
and floats of music and even a whole house
filled with the finest specimens of ornithology
minerals, coins, thirtyseven wax-figures
and even a grand Cosmorama

NO COME ON

A
No come on!

B
I don't know

A
It will be fun – all those people coming over from the other side of the border
it's not pricy
this place
They say you can even shoot your own turkey
live at the bar

HE IS DEAD DRUNK

No, he reeks of it
I'm telling you
He's dead drunk – that's what's the matter with him!

STARTS SINGING LOUDLY AND CONTINUES TO DO SO

SO LET THE POOR MAN IN
It's pouring down out there!

QUIET SUNDAY
For the first time in years
The first day of the week with becoming solemnity
A great day for our organization: all the bars, the bear-gardens closed

THE RAOD-BUILDER

A
No, he is a roadbuilder
He never was in copper

B
Who told you that?

A
Roads
That's all I say

He's building roads

158

WHAT NONSENSE

159

FLOODS

The roads flooded

No – roads

No its flooded I said
It's all the
rain

160

ON HORSEBACK

You have to go on
horseback
you have to take the canoo
It's the only way

161

HE WALKED STRAIGHT ACROSS THE TERRITORY

162

YES, THEY ARE BUILDING ROADS

163

IF THEY COULD JUST MANAGE TO KEEP THE COWS OFF THE ROAD

164

No, there is no copper – they will never find any

165

THEY ARE BUILDING ROADS NOW

166

ACROSS THE RIVER

It's sort of a chees-box on a raft
He has two ponies propelling this wheel
At the side of the boat
taking people across the river

167

MR SILVER-HEELS

He owns everything now
Even the public bathtubs
They call him Mr Silver Heels

168

POSTER

Rare spot at the gardens!
Two bears and one wild goose will be sat up
to be shot at
Or chased by dogs on the 20th of October at 2 O'clock

169

THEY CAME FOR THE PONY-RAISES

170

THE DOGS

No -The dogs went wild with barking
I think they killed somebody

171

It's just some kids fooling around
You'll see

172

200 WOUNDED

Bruised heads, black eyes, bloody noses

But no causalities

DEAR MOTHER (while writing a letter)
 Dear mother – how is it with all of you at home
 Here – I am sorry to inform you – an epidemic of smallpox have broken out
 The summers has been heavy with fever
 The killing relentless

NO PERFORMANCES
 I told you –
 There won't be any performances today

They are shutting up the theatre

NO, I MEAN IT

DON'T GO

Version 1:
 Don't go

Version 2:
 Don't go

No don't go out

WAIT TIL IT'S OVER

Version 1:
 Better wait her

Version 2:
 Better wait until it's over, til it passes

Version 3:
 Give it a day or to and then it will be over
 Just like last time

EMPTY STREETS

There is nobody in the street –

They say old Israel came through the town with his carts laden full
with dead bodies

179

IT'S ALL A BIT SAD NOW

180

REAL SAD

I don't know
He just never leaves the house anymore
He used to be so
social
He never goes to dances
Never goes to the shop
Never takes the cart out
He just sits
there
In his
chair
I think I am the only one
that calls on him and he never wants to do anything when I get there
Like play cards or –

His sons says, that when they call, that they might play the occasional
game of chess
which he always wins

181

THEY USED TO TRADE ALCOHOL FOR PETS BACK THEN

182

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

183

DO YOU HEAR ME?

Version 1:
Do you hear me?
It's your mother talking

Version 2:
Do you hear me?
It's your father talking

Version 3:
Do you hear me?
It's me talking.

184

I BELIEVE IN GOD

In things I can
touch
In doing the right thing
In hard work
In reading
In loads of reading – Reading always helps

185

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT

186

HEAVY WORK

A
This boy you're seeing – What does he do?

B
He's down at the mill

A
Heavy work – lifting those sacks – sure does your back in

B
-

A
Upstream is it?
The works?

B
Now it's down by the yard, between Orchard and Plum

187

STEAMSHIPS

Look!
The steamships in

188

YES, THATS THE BIGGEST ONE YET

189

LIFTING AND CARRYING

Just lifting and carrying in
Lifting and carrying
Lifting and carrying all day long

WHAT KIND OF WORK DOES HE DO?

A

So, this boy of yours, what kind of work does he do?

B

He's down at the dock

A

Shipworking?

B

Engine building, I think

DO YOU REMEMBER

And do you remember

Do you remember John

Us is-skating on the frozen river

Watching them lords and ladies – all dressed up in
sable robes, grilling venison and drinking Madeira wine

And staying up all night

And dancing the money-musk, and the reel, and hunt-the-grey-fox, and the german-three
and the pillowdance and you walking me home in the snow

RUM-RUNNERS

Look at those rum-runners!

Driving their cars across the ice!

THE ORCHARD

So yes

That's what they do

If they want fish for dinner

They just stroll down to the river and get some

And if they want fruit for desert

They just stroll by their orchard and pick some

THERE IS A NEW FACTORY BUILD

they say that just the one

Just this one

Will employ 90 000 workers

WATCH OUT

Version 1:

Watch out for the dogs

Version 2:

Watch out for the dogs

Watch out for the cats, the kids, the corner

Version 3:

Watch out for the boogeyman –

Version 4:

watch out for the girl in the jersey knitwear

Version 5:

Watch out for the august stock market corrections

Version 6:

Watch out for your health

Version 7:

Watch your health insurance

196

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT

Yes, Yes – you heard me right

That's exactly the word I used

197

DO YOU HEAR ME?

Sit up when I am talking to you

It is your father talking

198

DON'T LISTEN TO ME

199

IT WAS ONLY A DREAM

200

NO PROGRESS

No, there will never be any progress

Not with that lot

As long as they have their shindigs and their brandy and their women and their cars

That's all they care for

Going wild in the night shooting at everything

201

SHADES

Oh – Shades? That's an ooold place
If you ever want to get pissed in a really old place
Go to shades
You can still shoot fowls and turkey there
geese and chicken too
at Thanksgiving and x-mas, they put the fowls in a
box or something, at some distance in the rear
and then when the fun is over
they raffle off the victims in the bar
one should think one still lived in the seventeen hundreds

202

SURE BENDS YOUR BACK

A
Sure bends your back this work

B
It does

A
Brutal to the body

B
Brings money though

A
Be that right

203

A RIVERBOAT AND A MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA

What do I remember the most?
A riverboat lunch with a mandolin orchestra

204

WHICH BAR

You know
Back then – if you wanted to know where anybody
Or whomever was
You just asked: which bar

205

RUNAWAYS

That tailor
Yes
That's why he built that bar
To hide runaways

No its true
They hide there – waiting to get across the border
They smuggle them across the border at night
They have this tunnel and they call the other side
Do you know what they call the other side?
They call it dawn
Over here with us, its dusk
And there
On the other side of the river – There is dawn

206

RUSSIAN JEWISH GRANDFATHER

A
I told her that my Russian Jewish grandfather
Got busted running sugar for that uptown gang

B
Did she believe you?

A
But it's true

207

A SILVER SPOON IN A CROWS NEST

That's what they found: a silver spoon in a crows nest,
a pink rubber band

208

LIST OF SHHIPS

Superior
Sunnyside –
Cambridge
Champion
Vulcan – a schooner
Jane Bell – a Bark
Sweatheart
Delaware
and R. N. Rice – a Tug

Pathfinder
Reindeer
Monticella

Annie L. Young
S. Baldwin
Jenny Briskow
Hope and then Monitor – a bulk carrier

Scow No 1 and No 2 in 1886
Niagara – the Tug in 1887

Then Inter-Ocean
Victoria
Queen of the Lakes
And Myrtle
Fortune
Excelsior

and then in 1878 – the first ferry
in 1888 – the third and the forth

Then Transport
and Garland
and Iron Age
and Lee
and Boston
and Algomath

Sappho
Albony
Landsown

Pioneer
Promise
Arrow – that was a good one
and Argo
Aragon
Troy
Tashmoo
Orego
and Liza

209

IT'S ME

210

DID YOU KNOW?

A
Did you know!?

B
What?

A
Did you know that the first elections we had in this town
took place in a bar

211

PEOPLE HERE ARE NOT THE SAME

I don't think I was ever meant to go to the city
I never thought the city was all that
people here are not the same

212

I'M JUST A FARMBOY REALLY

213

THE SMALLEST TOWN IN THE STATE

I've always been alright with stuff like that – being from a
small town and all

being from one of the smallest towns in the state
Not even a town
if you think about it
just a church
and a gas station
a music pavilion
and the buss-stop

214

JUST FOR A MINUTE

Can I put my head in your lap?
Just for a minute -
Just in your lap –

215

YES I AM HERE

Version 1:
Yes, yes. I'm here.

Version 2:
Yes. I am here.
It's me.

Version 3:
I'm right here.

216

WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME

I knew it
We should never have come

217

DON'T WORRY

Don't worry
They would never dream about doing something like that

218

WE HAVE TO HELP THEM

We have to help them
They can't read or write or anything

219

I WILL BE HOME SOON

Don't sit up.

Don't answer the door.

Just keep the lights on
I'll be home
I'll be home soon.

No, nobody is coming

220

MURDER BY THE SCHOOL

They shot him in the head
took all his clothes off and left him there
Outside the school
Yes
It was a school
And you know the birds
The birds – they always go for the eyes

No my aunt told me
She saw it herself

221

LOOK AT ME

Look at me
Open your eyes and look at me!!!

222

A NEWCLEAR BOMB BY THE CARLSBERG CAVERNS

You know – once
when a nuclear bomb was dropped
nearby the Carlsbad caverns
some time in the fifties
as a test – the government watched the lake in that
cavern very carefully, to see if the blast caused ripples to appear
on the pool's surface. None did.
Not a ripple.
Non
The earth – It must just have swallowed up all the vibration

223

CAVES AND BATS 1

Did you know that 1942, the Army trapped thousands of guano bats in the Carlsbad Canyon in New Mexico and put them in a refrigerator to trigger hibernation. Then they strapped 9 gram bombs in 1 gram containers filled with kerosene onto the bats, held on by a string on their chests. The idea was they'd release these bats over Japanese cities. The bats were supposed to chew their way through the string to get the bombs off, and leave them where they did. But in the trial run, some bats never woke up. And others escaped, and set fire to a hangar and a general's car and so the program ended in 1943.

CAVES AND BATS 2

There is connections
There is connections: Bats and caves.
Caves and bats.

Few military conflicts in history have ever been conducted without the use of caves. Think of Jesse James.

He hid out in caves, and in 1863 excavations uncovered an 18 story deep city dug into soft lava rock, that could protect 20,000 people, – in Cappadocia, Turkey. And in France, during WWII, they dug a huge underground complex of tunnels and spaces, with an above-ground fort around it, called Maginot Line.

And there is the Vietnam War.

The North Vietnamese used caves and underground dwellings

And Afghanistan. Not to mention Afghanistan and the Zhawar underground complex in in the mountains up there.

The Taliban know their caverns.

There is this connections. Between war and caverns.

Caverns and and bats.

Some have suggested that since bats fly into caves and that since the Taliban is in caves, we should try this type of thing again, but scientists say the problem is bats that are kidnapped, disoriented, and then dropped from 1,000 feet, do not act normally and fly into caves. They act in unpredictable manners instead.[ii]

224

AS IF LIFTED

and the bed was
moving

A moment
it is as if everything just floated
As if she was lifted
As if the world had turned into liquid
balancing on a breath
like a baby's
when it has just stopped crying
a quiver
running through everything

225

READING ALWAYS HELPS

I don't know if I believe in destiny
Or that it's every man for himself
I believe in luck
Or hard work
And reading
Loads of reading
reading always helps

226

ARE YOU STILL UP (on the phone)

Are you up
Are you still up?

Are you up?
You shouldn't be up.

No, no. Don't wait up for me.
There is no need to. No need to be up – No reason to wait
I'll catch a bus.
I'll catch a cab.

I'll get on the subway.

What noises

Just don't answer the door.

Just don't you answer – do you hear me?

What noises is that

No

And don't you open –

And not your sister either. You tell her – If she wakes up.

If there is anybody

there at the door

Do you here me?

Listen to your mother

Just keep the lights on

Just keep the lights on

Until I'm there

*

(on the phone)

– Buttercup

Is that you?

– Why are you answering the phone?

– Why aren't you sleeping?

Why are you up?

You shouldn't be up.

– And your sister?

She isn't sleeping?

– She is sleeping?

Why couldn't she sleep?

Why is she not sleeping

– I'll come

I'll come right now

You keep the lights on.

Just keep the lights on.

Keep the television on.

I know – I know. Just to keep you company. Just until I'm there

227

COME AS FAST AS YOU CAN

228

BOOK CLOSE TO FACE

A

My father

He gave me this other name

because I read all these books

Constantly reading they said

He called me

Book close to face

But like

in his own tongue
In his language

B
Like –

A
I couldn't even say it.

B
I'd like to hear it.

A
I couldn't even pronounce it.

B
I'm sure it's beautiful.

A
I can't even remember it
even
to be honest
I'd had to ask my father next

BOOK CLOSE TO FACE IMPRO

A
I had it in my family
I was called – stare in the air ...
From my father
That's so funny
...

*

A
My father – gave me this other name
I was constantly reading – and spacing out
daydreaming
And he called me stare in the air – and – he but like in his own tongue
In his own language

B
Like

A
I – I don't – I don't remember anymore really
ehm
I don't know

B
I am sure it's beautiful

A
I would have to actually talk to him
I would have to talk to my father first, and find out.

B
Hm

*

A
You know my father – he gave me this other name
Because I was constantly reading
He called me Book Close to Face

B
You know *my* father – he gave me the name – stare in the air
Because I was daydreaming a lot

A
And how would he say it?

B
Stierom
Stieroom

A
Stierom?

B
Stierom
And the other version was – eeh Guck in die luft

Laughter

B
Mmm

A
Mm

B
Do you have a second name?

A
A second name?

B
I had two

A
I actually I do not remember it
I don't remember how to pronounce it
He said it in his own tongue, his own language

B
Like – like what?

A
I don't remember

B
I'd like to hear it

A
-
I'd had to ask him

A
I am sure its beautiful

WHAT AM I?

A
Close your eyes

B
-

A
Close your eyes

Say what am I

B
-

A
Close your eyes
Close your eyes and feel me

So – What am I

B
-

A
No. Further down
Further

B
Oh
Fuuuuury

A
Its reeeaaaaal fur

As real as can be

B
-

A
So what am I

B
It's soft

A
Isn't it

B
And warm

A

Mmhm

B
A minx?

Can I taste it?

A
No

B
Can I smell it

A
No tasting
No smelling
Just touching

B
-

A
No that's not allowed

B
So there are rules?

Ok
Ok

A
So

B
You'r a little baby rabbit
You're a kittykat
You're a monkeypaw
You're a baby bear all warm and snug

230

A SHINY SLIPPERY THING

A fox deep in his cave
A shiny, slippery thing –
A baby bear all warm and
snug
Oh let me see you
Oh why don't you let me in

231

LAUGHTER SINGLE

232

LAUGHTER PLURAL

THE MAN WHO ATE HIMSELF TO DEATH

By the way – did I tell you about that man who
ate himself till death?

NO, LET GO OF ME

No, let go of me
Let go of my hand

WE WILL BOTH FALL

Just let go of me, or we'll both fall

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL

FACE DOWN

I don't know
I don't know this man
They found him in the streets, face down
all his in intestines were gone

THIS TOWN IS ALMOST BANKRUPT NOW ANYWAY

THEY ARE COMING

They're here
They are coming

DREAM OF CHILDREN BEING TRANSFORMERS

I had this dream
This strange dream
the children – being transformers – or robots or zombies
hiding in the bushes watching us
and we were having this barbeque party
everybody laughing and drinking

THE THINGS WE ARE DOING TO EACH OTHER

Version 1:

I imagine her
 touching herself
 She is thinking about me, my wife
 It turns her on
 The things we are doing to each other

Version 2:

My neighbor wears this really tight skirt
 its green

I find her at e-bay.
 at finn.no
 She is selling her dress.
 She is selling her shoes, her coat, her dishwasher
 She is selling her fridge, her chairs, her pots and pans

Sometimes I see her carrying out her trash
 Big bags of it

I awake at night thinking about her
 her trash
 her house
 where the rooms are situated: The kitchen, the bedroom, the hallway
 I see her standing there – her mobile in one hand, her coat in the other

I imagine her touching herself – thinking about me – about my wife – and the things we get
 up to

I BELIEVE IN LUCK

some people just have more luck than others
 I believe in luck
 I believe in that

THE FREAKY WHITE BOY

A
 And this car came driving down the street
 real slow
 No headlights
 Just silently driving in the dark
 Down the road
 And this kid jumped ut
 This tiny kid – no more than fourteen
 All white and freakly
 And he had this bat
 This baseball-bat – and he thumped him

B
 Who?

A
 This other boy

A tall musculare looking one
And he just collapsed
Went down on his knee like
And then he thumped him again

B
Who?

A
That freaky boy
At the left of his scull
Like right behind his ear – and he just like
keeled over
on the side
And then there was this other car
It just came out of nowhere
And these local boys jumped out
Huge, tattooed guys with mohawks and army boots
And then it just exploded
The whole street – it just went crazy

244

THEY SHOT HIM – THE DIALOGUE

A
They shot him

B
Who?

A
He was just stopping at red light

B
Where?

A
Does it matter where?

B
-
Was he local?

A
What do you mean local?
What do you mean where?
Don't you care?

B
Of course, I care

A
People just go about shooting people at random
Just like that

B
It wasn't at random

A
He just stopped for red

B
Yes, but it wasn't at random

A
And he wasn't a local
What do you mean a local?

B
You mean – you are sure he wasn't local?

A
-

B
-
Well anyways – it wasn't at random. They probably just wanted his car

245

KICKING AND KICKING HIM

Version 1:
They just kept kicking and kicking and kicking him

Version 2:
And you just kept on kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking
and kicking her in the face

And you feel like running – but you don't know where

Version 3:
They just kept kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking him

He had this knife
This really long Japanese looking knife
And his eyes was all wild

246

HE HAD TATOOS RUNNING ALL THE WAY UP HIS SCULL

247

I SAW NOTHING

No
I saw nothing
No
I did not see anything

248

YES I SAW HIM

Yes, I saw it
It was him
That fucker did it

249

RUN!

250

DO IT!

Just do it!

Just bash his skull inn

251

WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE MOVED HERE

Why did we move here

We never should have moved here

252

LOOK, HIS FACE IS ALL GONE!

253

RIOT SEQUENCE 1

A

Tanks

B

WHAT

A

Come and see

B

Not tanks

A

There

B

Is it the army?

A

It's the luting

That's why

B

It's political

A

People can't just go around taking whatever they can get their hands on

B

It's the riots – not the looting

Its political, I'm telling you

Tanks

Tanks in our streets

I can't fucking believe it

RIOT SEQUENCE 2

1:
Riots!
It's a riot

2:
What riot?

3:
They're rioting

4:
They're going wild
all of them

5:
Call the police

6:
Close the door – there

7:
Call someone!

8:
They say its out of control

9:
What's out of control?

10:
Oh no – the car!

11:
Who's shooting?

12:
Nobodies shooting

13:
They're coming

14:
Where are the children!
Get the children!

15:
Yes, yes. I'm here.
Yes. Yes. I am here.

I am here – Mummy's here

16:
How on earth did it get to this?!

17:
What in heavens name is happening!

18:
It wasn't his shop

19:
Look what I got!

20:
What are you going to do with that toaster?

21:
It's too heavy!

22:
No one trusts the police

23:
It's going to be alright
They know what they are doing

24:
Do they know what they are doing?

25:
Get it under control!

26:
Their animals, the lot of them

27:
We should never have moved here!

28:
They are looting the stores!

29:
We are a family now, and families stick together

254

CHIRST MAN

Christ man
Why do you leave your shoes lying around!
And what's this bread doing on the table
Now its all dry and hard

255

MY IDEAL SHRINK

If I could choose my ideal shrink
He would be like this guy – that repairs cars
And then you go to his garage
And you talk, and he listens
He can listen to cars – so -
He can listen to people
And he likes it
And you notice it, and it makes feel ok

And his wife makes cookies
and they get like reeealy popular
because people find it relaxing you know
to be with this guy, and his wife and his cars

MARY

and I think about Mary –
She dreams of owning a small Deli in her own skyscraper and now she drives
At least once a month she drives
I see her driving off down G avenue four a clock in the morning with a gun in the glove
compartment –
Lately it just happens all the time
I see her as I return from the night shift
Always hard to get to sleep
I am such a light sleeper those first hours and I hear her car
Almost once a month – she takes that drive
to find a broken front window

They have been running it for 27 years
that deli
leasing it from a guy that still has all his confirmation-money in unopened envelopes.

It used to be great down here
Now the alarm wakes her up in the middle of the night
and she picks up the gun
and she gets into her car and drives all the way down
Onto the freeway
Towards the river
picking up cardboard on the way
to stop the alarm
clear away the glass –
wait for the police that never turns up before long after they have opened in the morning.

261

This is the thread in my hand
This is my hand
No more children
There just is no room for it –
This is the thread in my hand
This is my hand
This is the thread as it passes through it
I've told you I've told you
Don't kiss me like that – there is no room for it
This is the thread in my hand
This is my hand
This is the thread as it passes through it
As it enters the machine
As the machine eats it up
As my hand reaches out
and touches the metal, my knee, the softness of the wool
Yes I love you
–
This is the machine
Reds, blues, greens, yellows
It is in my hand – the wool – my mouth sore, the taste of beans and greens No more
children I say – no more
When you sleep
I kiss you
My hand is hard
It is the work
It is the noise – the dark is so quiet I cannot sleep
See
See
Snow falling

IT'S LIKE A TRIBE

It's like a tribe

It's like a very corrupt tribe

20 BOXES OF FROZEN PIZZA

When I walk through my neighborhood
 I hold my phone up
 and move my lips
 Pretending that I am talking to someone
 so that I do not have to stop and chat
 because

I've had enough of that
 of my neighborhood stopping me at random
 like in the stairwell
 or calling me over and over again
 on the phone
 sometimes in the middle of the night
 And one time
 one of them just came towards me
 and like
 moved straight into my private space
 and then he started reading this poem
 this like really sexual poem
 into my face

So now sometimes
 when the phone calls
 I just don't answer

remembering the time

when one of my neighbors called me

like twenty times the same night

offering me 20 boxes of frozen pizza

And this guy
 he is like
 really big
 really tall
 really heavy looking
 He murdered this man

Everybody knows it

He put a radio inside him and he died

I HOLD THE FABRIC IN ONE HAND

I hold the fabric in one hand
 And the ribbon in the other
 It's snowing outside
 No sound
 Just snow
 The needle and the thread
 The thread and needle

I hold the ribbon in one hand
The fabric in the other
My selection of feathers
My selection of buttons
My selections of linings and beads

I am thinking of poppies
I am thinking about leaving this house
I am thinking about the sound of snow that has no sound at all
The ribbon in one hand
The fabric in the other
Dust on the floorboards, the mantelpiece – not moving
I am not moving
How long since I moved
Just the snow
Just this needlework
Just this endless row of hats
Ladies
Laughter
Tea
Sacks of coal
I need to buy another sack of coal
I need a hand against my neck
Sometimes I feel as if I am dead from the waist down

Is this age?
The ribbon in my hand, the dust, the dead fire – the sound of snow falling

Blue
Stacks of blue
Shades of blue
My beads – emerald, crimson, bone-white
The china in my cup

I have to let go of it – the ribbon
Dear hand – you have to let go of it

The work is never over

I have to let go of it
This fabric
This hand
A pair of scissors in the wicked basket
All this beauty
feathers
the ribbon

in the snow
a raven black cat across the lawn
a raven black cat across the lawn
a raven black cat across the lawn

265

DOG ON ACID

In my village
everybody knows everybody
And this man
this man –
he tried to murder his grandmother

centre, the launch pad-area where the rocket takes oooooof – and takes the owl into space.
In nature
The owl would be sitting on top of a telegraph-pole or – at a high place, but for some
reason it is not
a telegraph-pole
It's a space rocket
And I am not – I am not anything
I am just an observing
Watching all of this happening
A somewhat frightened observer – because it's all a bit disconcerting
All very strange and worrying
A little bit intimidating, but there is a feeling of hurry – and I am running across the
wasteland
Towards the cliff
But I don't know what happens then
I have no idea

727

OWL 2 IMPRO

All owls are very mysterious
They are difficult to guess – they give the impression
Of commanding the whole environment from high up and with an absolute minimum of
movement a real
Economy of using virtually no energy – they just
Move their head a little bit – off course
It just rotates
The head of an owl – it just rotates without you even knowing if it really has a neck or not
Just turning around – surveying the environment really quietly – not – not
Alarming any possible pray that might be in the environment so – commanding the
environment so that any
Life
Any – other animal life or birdlife that's within a 150 meters of the owl is basically
conscious that the owl is there – cause it could loose anything
A rabbit or a dog or anything – could basically they could basically loose anything
their lives – if they do anything wrong with an owl hanging around – up at the top of a pole
– But since the owl is actually on the space rocket it kind of looses some of its
some of its natural power
cause
that's not really a place where owls probably wants to be – on the top of a space rocket
I think its forced to go out there – probably against its own will ...
And everything is moving much faster – I mean – that it ever would have wanted to be
moved – sooooo – so its not a natural situation for the owl – if one compares with its
natural environment

273

THE DEATH OF THE HONEY BEES

Like – I read it in the paper – this Sunday morning – it said that the honey bees had started
to die in massive numbers.

All the hives. Died on the spot, totaling about 2.5 million bees.

A woman stated on facebook – that walking through the farm was like waking through a
graveyard. Pure sadness

278

CLOSING

No
they are closing it down

279

CLOSING-TIME

They are closing down the factory

They are closing down the works

They are closing down the yard

The mill

The diner

No
I went down there today
They gates were locked

The door was looked

They've barricade it

You could walk right in

It was all gone

The machines, the shelves, the storage
All empty

280

DEPRESSION

70,000 abandoned buildings, 31,000 empty *houses*, and 90,000 vacant lots

281

GIVE ME MY KEYS!

Give me my keys!
Give me my keys
Give them to me!
Just give me my keys
Give me my keys -
My keys – Give them to me!

282

HE JUST SHOUTS

My neighbor – He is no problem
really
He just shouts
Like shouts
really loud
over and over again

like the same phrase – Just like: Give it here. Give me my keys!
like 40 times in different voices and I sit there, in my living room, and I listen to him.
My wife likes it less than I do. It kind of scares her, the way he just goes on and on. I guess
it's because she's pregnant. She worries about the child. About whether this is the right kind
of environment for our child to grow up in
Sometimes I go down. To the basement.
You can hear them even better down there
The way they carry on
I sit there on the washing machine
– and sometimes I see him – like
driving off
in the middle of the night.
And his wife there
on the lawn
in her rubber boots
or in her bathrobe
knee deep in snow.

283

WE LIT A FIRE IN THE BASEMENT

284

THE GOVERNMENT

A
there are killings again
Up in the hills
Down by the river

B
It's nothing
It's the government
Go back to sleep

A
I heard it
I heard it all true the night

B
Its just target practise
Its just some kids fooling about

A
They are doing it
Going from house to house
You'll see

B
-

A
The dogs went wild with barking
I think they have killed everybody
Like the gangs used to
Soon they'll go around
burning down the houses

285

RUBBISH

All that rubbish
Big plastic bags full of it
How can one person manage to produce so much junk

286

RATS

Rats
Worse than rats – the lot of them

287

CLOCKS, STEAM ENGINES, CAT-FOOD, RIFLES AND BULLETS

Clocks, steam engines, cat-food, rifles and bullets
Clocks, steam engines, cat-food, rifles and bullets
Clocks, steam engines, cat-food, rifles and bullets

288

FUCK THOSE BLOODY POLES

289

90 000

90 000

90 000 workers

290

CLOSING US DOWN

Version 1:
They are closing us down

Version 2:
They are closing it down

291

THE OWNERS

A
Why says that?

B

Say what!

A

That *they* are closing it down

B

What do you mean?

A

Who are they?

They who?

292

SELF MEDICATION

– working with animals, I'm just so fucking tired.

It's not the animals – it's the people. They self-medicate.

I want to go to Alabama. Raise horses, start a farm down there.

All my Family is from down there – you know. Back when they came –

Always loved horses.

There used to be a stable down here. The house is still there. I used to go there as a child. I was the only black person. I thought that there were no black jockeys but then I learned that in the South, before the ku klux klan went through it all – all the prize winning jockeys were black.

293

THE HATERS

They used to be hating on us. Now they are all coming down here.
in their cars.

They can't even cross the streets. They can't even walk.

I mean now they all say they support the team – in that time, when the stadium was down there – now we all go to the games, now when they are winning. But then – there were hardly any at the games. When they were one dollar a seat and you could bring your own food.

I remember like, when I was four, and my mother had brought me that new shiny jacket, you know that team jacket, and we went down there, and we walked over that overpass and it was a summers day and I was all proud and all.

294

THE PIANO

He does not do anything anymore

He just sits up all night – playing that piano

And now they are coming to get it

He picked it up when he got that job – but then he never payed for it

295

THE KEY

Do you have it?
The key?

296

TICK TOCK

We think that we've got'n rid of it
We think we've stashed it away in the attic and then it keeps on reappearing in the living
room
It's like this alarm clock ticking
You can put it under your pillow, in the cupboard, but it keeps on ticking
Tick tock
Tick tock
Tick tock

297

THE ONE-HANDED SHRINK

This shrink I started going to, he does not have a hand
He has like – not even half a hand
So he puts forward this stump
And you grab it
And it's like the most beautiful thing

298

COME ON. YOU ARE HOLDING ME UP HERE!

299

A LITTLE BOY RUNNING

You hear him
their little boy running and
Running
running and
Running
across the floor

300

DO YOU HAVE IT

Do you have it?
The car?

301

SHAME

The fact that you don't own your own words!
Not even your feelings

That they are not original
That they are/feel even
made

They create shame

They come from society, from our parents – they create shame
We fight
With this self-censorship

302

BEHIND THE HOUSE (while writing on a computer)

We are growing corn again now
And apples and pears and grapes
And my neighbour he has bees
Beehives
Behind his house and on the ceiling

303

THE HUSBAND

My neighbor
she really want to be like us
you can see it in her face

And her husband
He plays a lot of footballgames
And he has this small office and she knows
That he will never make this amount of money
To get the house of her dreams – That her friends has
And I meet her even in the shop
Or I meet her on the doorstep

And she tells me everything
I met him on the boat
The husband
And he was going to Poland
On a guttetur

And he says
We are going to Auschwitz on Sunday
if we are not to drunk on Saturday

Its so hard – he says

After so many years
With my wife
things
no sex

304

IT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL

A
I don't know
In a way it's his problem, isn't it?

B
Sure it's his problem – but now it's mine too

A
I think it's psychological

B
Off course it's psychological

A
Maybe you should talk to somebody
Maybe you need like
a third party?

B
Yeah

A
Yeah

B
-

Yeah

A
I think so

B
A third party
-
Some friends of ours decided to go to this shrink
And they wanted him to be an older man
You know – wise maybe, or experienced
And they found this old man
Who kind of look like her dad, and she liked that

And
He was a couple therapist

A family counselor

And he was like 65

And now they go there like every week

And she says
It sort of become a part of their lives
It does not solve anything, she says – but it's like a ritual
Like family

A
Ah – isn't that lovely

B
I don't know
I mean, he isn't family – they pay him

A
I think you need something like that
Some stability, some continuity

B

-

She also told me – that he only has one hand

Like when they came there, and he came to the door – she discovered that he only had one hand

The other hand was like gone

Just a stump – and I don't know

I just couldn't deal with that

305

FALLING SEQUENCE

1:

What happened?

2:

He fell

2:

Did he fall?

4:

What's up?

5:

He fell

6:

Who fell?

7:

He just lies there

8:

Get him up

Whats wrong with you!

Somebody get him up!

306

DARLING

Look at me

Darling look at me

307

IT'S THE LATEST MODEL

Do you like it?

It's the latest model

Is it the colour you like

Powder blue

It will take us straight across town

Straight across town – no waiting around in that tramline anymore

HE HAS THE NICEST CAR ...

WATCH OUT FOR THE TRAM!

YOU ARE HURTING ME

Let go of my hand
 No
 Let go of my hand
 You're hurting me

THE BOYS SWIMMING

No they went swimming
 The boys
 in the river
 run after them
 just take this lunch-box
 and this apple
 and run

run and you'll catch up with them

CARD-PLAYING

The police came around
 They'd been card-playing I thought
 That's what he said
 We've been card-playing all night – he said, but I don't know
 They came and took him
 God knows when he'll get out

THE MEMBRANE

It's like a membrane, an invisible skin that is hard – to penetrate – to find your voice in – in the society. Not just to live at the edge of it. Surviving by it – but not really being in it. Not being able to influence it – or criticise it.

THIS STREET WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

I WANT TO GO TO WARSAWA

I want to go to Warszawa
 Play the piano
 Were one of those dresses
 One of those long sleeveless dresses
 I dream of it at night
 Me
 In a lit up street back there where my folks came from
 Playing
 Letting the music pour out through an open window
 Down to the street below ...

THE VAN

In the van

I can't

She can't
 She's pregnant
 She's five months pregnant
 Its January

In the van
 You can't be serous

They've cut the electricity
 They've changed the locks
 It's not yours anymore
 Jim
 Jim

Jim

Its not your house anymore
 It hasn't been – if you don't pay
 it hasn't been for years

JUST SHUT UP

Just shut up
 Just shut up
 Just shut up about that van
 About that dog
 About the government
 About your dress
 About that school
 What school
 What fucking school
 Do you think I can pay for a school
 I can't even pay for petrol
 I can't sleep
 I haven't slept

This car
This car
This car
It's the nicest colour but it's not a fucking house
It's not a fucking house
This is not fair
This is not fair
This is not human
We are not supposed to live like this!!!

318

THE RULER

I had this ruler.
This ruler that I really loved
And it had all these faces on it
All the presidents faces – and I loved that ruler so much
I thought I would be like them one day
that I would be a president
and it was not until later
I could have been six maybe, or seven
when I noticed
when I saw
that they were not like me
that they were different
their faces – not like my face
That they were men, and that I was not
And I wanted to be one
a man
like my father
or a boy
like my brother

I loved my brother
and I could not believe it
how all
how all of them could be men and I
was not

319

SHIT

shit shit shit

shit shit shit shit shit

shit shit shit shit fuck this shit

320

HOLD ME

Please hold me
Just for a minute

321

Are you lost or something?

322

YOU OVER THERE

Can I help you with anything?

323

ANIKA IMPRO

1.

No it wasn't

No – it wasn't

No. It wasn't. osv

2.

Nei – va då?

Nei, det va det inte.

Nei de va det inte

Nehehe i de va det inte osv

Va det det?

Nei – va då?

3.

It wasn't what –

It wasn't what?

It wasn't osv

4.

Vad va de inte? Vå da?

Vad va det inte

Vad va det inte?

VAD va det inte? Osv

Det va inte vad då?

Vilket va det inte?

Vad va det inte för nånting?

Det va inte vad?

5.

Are you sleepy –

Are you sleepy?

Osv

Are you asleep?

6.

Sover du?

Är du sovnig?

Är du sövnig – etc

(whispers) sover du?

Sover du –

Nnnnn – hhhnnnn (hums)

–

His car
He loved his car
I remember him filming the scenery
He used to film the houses and the streets
How he used to follow me around with the camera
filming everything I did
all the time
I used to love that
he used to say – look at me!
He used to say – turn around and twirl!
I used to perform for him

328

BLIND

Sometimes it feels like I'm going blind

I cannot see

When I try to look ahead

It is just gone – obliterated

329

I NEVER MENT TO HURT YOU

No – don't say that
It's not true
I never meant to hurt you

330

I USED TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN THE WORLD

331

THAT'S IT

I've never been able to say no

That's it

I just never –

332

I HAVE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT

Look
Look
Look
I've been up all night
Up all night – with those bloody papers
With those number

No
No
No – we can't work it out
It's nothing to work out
It's over
No more tweaking, fixing, no more avoidance –

Yes
Yes
I told you
It's over
They'll put us under administration

Tomorrow
In a week
In a months time – but it will happen
There is no avoiding it

333

THE CONTRACT

See
There is the contract

334

LAWRENCE-QUOTE

the machine is a soft thing, it needs us

We are not the centre

We are a part of thermodynamic processes

We are the producers of technology – of hot words, and cold matter

Maybe we have the potential to deal with it all ...

325

A TRIBE

It's like a tribe
This government
It's like a very corrupt tribe

336

I DON'T BELIEVE IN POLITICS ANYMORE

337

FIFTH FLOOR

I live on the fifth floor
I grow lemon trees in my windowsill, and apple trees and tomatoes
I take the kernels out of the fruit and then I plant them there
I've also tried to plant an avocado, ginger and apricot

THE HOUSE

A
So it's yours

The house on the other side of the street

B
Yes

A
I didn't know
I thought that it was owned buy a guy who was leaving for Florida

B
It was

Jimmy something

he offered me to buy it
but I didn't first
I would never touching any property with tenants on it
and the women who lived there, Charleen – she was like bipolar
and then he said she had to get out
but it took him two months to get rid of her
from May to July
and then I bought the place, and this woman – Charleen – moved further up street
ironically enough renting
With another white guy – called Kyle
and now
after she left
the house is twice the price
nobody wants to live close to lunatics and killers and crack heads – but we all have to live
somewhere
and now she hates everything in Horton street
Charleen
Sometimes she comes around
In the middle of the night
And she just stand there
Outside the house
Screaming
Swearing
Calling me names
Threatening that she will kill me
Calling me a Polish, fascist, racist pig
she even hates the farm and all it represents
she attacked the farmer two weeks ago
with a sledgehammer

A
And the house?
Are you going to keep it?

B
I don't know
if I get the right offer, I might sell

I NEVER SAID THAT

No!

No!

No!

No, I never said that

Shut the fuck up!
Just give me the keys!
Give me the keys

340

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME

341

They took us to that building that had just been sold for one million dollars to the guy who has that company – Cost and Credit, and inside it – there was this cathedral-like, heavily ornamented communal area, like ten floors high from the ground level, drawn by some of the world's best architects at the time, I mean the city was just overflowing with cash back then ...

342

LOCK IN

I can't stand it any longer
In two months time it will be five years since I last left this building

343

THE ARGUMENT

These last week we have been arguing
Constantly
We have bought this new flat
This penthouse
This rooftop garden
This ocean view and now he wants to get rid of it all
All the furniture
All the family portraits
Even the TV
He says it makes no sense anymore
All those things we have loved and cherished
That generations have loved and cherished since we are moving
Into this new flat
He says that when we pay so much for the view
For the space
For the vicinity
that that
Will have to do

IT WAS IN THE PAPERS

IT WAS IN THE NEWS

NEVER BELIEVE IT

A WORLD THAT VOTES BREXIT

A world that votes Brexit and Trump, and kicks refugees, and watches them drown in the sea. A world that turns its blind eye on barrel bombs, extreme torture, enhungerment, genocide... A world like this is an accessory to genocide

In a just world, all of your presidents and prime ministers will also be facing some kind of international court for justice, for being accessories to murder. I no longer think I am human... we have all become barbarians (Rana Issa on Facebook)

THE WORLD GOING TO THE DOGS

It's not true you know.

It's not true what they say – that the worlds is going to the dogs.

It is a lie.

A shitty lie.

Don't you ever believe it

Don't you believe a word of it. They want you to believe it, but never you believe it – We are fine. Just fine, I promise you. It's just scare tactics – You need to understand – there are countries on all levels, and most of them are ok. People are vaccinated

The number of children in the world has stopped. Stopped increasing.

Most people use contraceptives. They say –

Mr Trump

on the news

They say there is war, chaos, unrest -

– No

No, no, no, no –

That's wrong. You are wrong. They are wrong! Straight up wrong!

There are a fantastic elections, competent leaders. Yesterday India was declared free from tetanus, Nigeria has a fast economic growth and – if one chooses to – If one chooses to only show the shoe, my shoe – it's a very ugly shoe – but that shoe is only a part of me.

I am telling you.

I know.

I am a doctor.

I have been everywhere

I am having a shitty day, but the world is ok and I am telling you that if you choose to only show my ugly shoe – OR if you choose to show something else – like – my face, that's different thing. You only can't only show a small part and call that "the world".[iii]

THE WALK

I decided to walk straight across town
 From the old slaughterhouse and then just continue west
 All the way through Newtown and the upper district – not stopping
 Just do drink – and eat maybe once a day
 I decided to walk all the streets
 To circle town
 See how long it would take me
 Sleep as little as possible

I do one street at the time
 Circle them on the map
 the one I've walked and the once I'll do next
 Once all the madhouses and all the jails was outside town
 Now the city is catching up with them

A WORLD BUILD ON FANTASY

Is any of it real?

Look at this

Look at this!

A world built on fantasy

Synthetic emotions in the form of pills

psychological warfare in the form of advertising

Mind-altering chemicals in the form of food

Brainwashing seminars in the form of media

Cold isolated bobbles in the form of social networks

Real?

You want to talk about reality?

We have not lived in anything remotely close to reality since it turn of the century

We turned it off

Took out the batteries

Snacked on a bag of gmo's while we toss the reality into any

ever expanding dumpsters of the human condition

we live in houses build by trademarks corporations

built on bipolar numbers

jumping up and down on digital displays

Hypnotizing us into the biggest slumber mankind have ever seen

You have to dig pretty deep, kiddo

We live in the kingdom of bullshit

A kingdom you've lived in for far too long

I am no more real than a big mac

As far as you are concerned

I am very real

We are all together now

Whether you like it or not

(Mr Robot)

351

THE DOG

And our dog
it just keeps on barking
There is no way we can -
It just barks and barks
every time anybody moves
sits down
stands up
if the light shifts
or a car
passes
in the night
It's such a light sleeper
Somebody turning on a light
going to the toilet
opening a door – it just sets it off and then
it can keep it going for hours
But my other neighbours
the ones just across the street
They have children, a tiny child and all, and
sooner or later they will complain
They will call
or come over
and tell us that the dog
That it's impossible with that dog
And then
One night
I wake up
and the house is all lit up
Every room
the hallway
even the garage
like this bright, whitish light
A helicopter landing on the parking lot
the rotors spinning
whipping up the snow

352

LIPSTICK ON A WHORE

– the city, the main street – before, I wouldn't even stop at red
Now its safe – although some of it is like putting lipstick on a whore

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US

Don't cry
This has nothing to do with us

PRODUCTION

You want me to say it
What the this town has been producing?
What hasn't been producing: china, candles, and cars. Canned sausages, canned beef,
canned beans. Bier and bonnets. Bomb-carriers. Tanks and toys and lumber. And lard. And
meatloaf's.
Stoves, and salt, and ships, and spirits Sports-ware, pharmaceuticals, paper, pens,
upholstery. Tobacco, tupperware,
furniture and furnaces
Do you want me to go on?

IT WAS GONE

I walked through my old neighborhood, and it was gone
Just gone

DO YOU HAVE A JOB SEQUENCE

1:
Well, you have a job

2:
Well – now you have a job

3:
Well –
Do you have a job?

4:
Well – if you don't have a job

5:
Well, if you can't hold down a job...

6:
Well – when there are no jobs –

7:
Did you get that job?

8:
No job's eh?

9:
When you lost that job

10:
But you lost that job

11:
Better hold on to that job

357

WORKING
So brother –
Are you working?

358

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

359

YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE

360

IT'S NOTHING

361

AH

Oh – no –
Further down

Ah – that's lovely!

362

IT'S TRUE
I never meant to hurt you

363

I'VE BEEN UP

Look
Look
Look
I've been up all night

364

BANCKRUPSY

Yes
Yes

I told you
It'over
Tomorrow
In a week
In a months time – but it will happen
There is no avoiding it

365

JUST RIGHT HERE

366

TAXATION IN SPACE

A
What do you think about taxation in space?

B
–

A
Taxation.
In space.

B
I don't

A
You know they are planning for it.
It's the resources – metals and minerals and all kinds of stuff.
They say that that's the next race. The race to colonialize – you know – space.
After the race for water – its space, they say, – and then they need rules you see
– and regulations – to have them ready. To put down some principles – on how
to tax
the revenue.

B
–

A
I know –
I know that –
That when you look up. When you stand there and look up at the sky, like – the
night sky and the moon – In Marysville – It can be really spectacular. In winter.
When it has snowed and the coyotes are out and you just stand there – You've
gone camping or something and you just stand there and look up at the sky and
the stars and you can hear them yelping in the distance, and the stars are like
tiny diamond dots high, high above you – like tiny pinpoint holes in the sky – and
the sky is so black that it embellishes all, so all you can do is just feel the pull, the
pull from those holes you know – as if they are entrances or something. Tiny
entrances to something – better – or lighter – just something bright. And you can
feel your soul, literally your soul being pulled up there, like – all the way up there
from your toes and your fingertips and the roots of your hair and you do not
think about it then – I mean that is not what's in the forefront of your mind right
then, looking at the night sky, – I mean: taxation.

367

KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

No, keep the lights on
Keep the lights on so I can look at you

368

BLAST OUT

A Sunday morning, at 10.30 – this man starts going bananas at the main square
Shooting at anything in sight. I mean anything. Not people but signs and busses, and
commercials and doves and even the tram as it passes

369

I DON'T READ THE PAPERS ANYMORE

370

WHAT NEWS?

371

BILLS

I cannot pay my bills
I don't have a car
I couldn't drive it if I had one

372

I SAW IT MYSELF

373

SHE SAID SO

374

THE GOLEM

C

I dreamt that we found this giant, this golem – that also was a machine
A kind of robot
deep inside the thickets at the back of the park
there where the drunks hang out
First I thought was just a small hill
All overgrown, and in the dream that felt all natural, as if it had always been there – but
inside that hill, hidden under leaves and branches it lay
As if sleeping

B

Why do you call it a golem?

C

I don't know
It was a person

but

home-made

Crafted in a way
Put together by different parts and it was so big
His left eye had fallen out and lay there on the ground
blinking at me

We found this door, and when we entered – it was all dark inside
And then we saw something
giving off a faint light

B

–

C

It looked like an enormous cupboard
Or an archive of some sort
a series of interconnected shelves and drawers
I think they were filled with voices

B

Stories

C

No, just voices
Just people talking
Whispering
I think they were whispering
Confessing
Talking about roads leading nowhere
About an aunt
A shop selling paper
Someone found dead face down in a bathroom in a derelict building
About different types of ice cream
About a house with 11 rooms and one child for each room
and about a theatre
long gone
Torn down
Demolished and all the performances that used to go on there

And there was a voice talking about her grandfather, that had this hollowed out walking
stick, a walking stick with a secret room just for stashing away silkworms, for smuggling,
back then, in a previous century
And about this architect
that built this skyscraper with all these balconies – and when he had finished building it
he went up to the top one
the top balcony
and then he just
jumped

And there were talks about underwater subway-systems
and soft cars
and runaway brides
and about this boy that dressed himself up in clouds
And in one of the drawers was this map showing all the possible and impossible hiding-
places any town could offer

B

-

I never dream anything anymore
I'm just out like light and then I'm awake again

SHUT YOUR FACE!

LOST

Have you ever been lost?
Like totally fucking lost
Like –

 out there
and

 real like
really lost and scared
Nothing fake
Real fear!
Full on
pure
just -

I wanted that
I just wanted to feel that – just once
and it was late September
at my mothers summerhouse
in the woods
and nobody knew I was there
that late in the season
And I had this plan
That I would just walk
I would just leave the place and start to walk and then continue until it got dark
And then I would leave the path
And I would just keep on walking
away from the cottage
away from the path and there
deep in the woods
I would face my fears

Soon
I couldn't see a thing
Soon
it was like pitch black out there – and I said to myself
watch your steps
watch your steps Ann Helen
and I thought: shit
Shit
Shit, shit, shut – this is like really, really dark
And I thought, fuck – why didn't I bring a mag-light or something?
and I went on like that for a while
crashing into branches, stumbling around in the moss and I was getting nowhere and I
though
this is stupid
and it was getting colder
and I thought
this is pointless without a mag-light
you are going to hurt yourselves – and I decided to go it back and get one
but instead of going down back through the valleys as I planned
there was no valley
I ended up in this marshland
I didn't even know there was marshland in that area
and I stood there

deep in the marsh
just out on this glen
and there was this moon
and a glimmering of water somewhere
and this darkness
and it was breathing
I thought
This darkness
This darkness is breathing like an animal and I thought, -
 this isn't right

and I turned left, or at least in the direction I was supposed to be going
– but I still couldn't find my way

I was still there in the wet

Under the branches, and I got that feeling, that feeling I had as a kid when you just stand there, like – lost, in nature – and your heart is pounding and you just think FUCK THIS SHIT ...and I said to myself – what the hell do you think you are doing out here? What the hell do you think you are doing out here in the dark – on your own – in the middle of the night, – you asshole-artist-face-your-fears-get-lost-in-nature-shit! And I just was truly

TERRIFIED

Most of all for stumbling upon something, a corps or something

Mainly a corpse

Or

things

lurking in the woods

a killer or a wolf or something –

And, I said to myself

you know

you know Ann Helen – this –

this

is just

NOT GOOD

And Why didn't you tell anybody where you where going?

Why didn't you ask if somebody to come and pick you up?

Now nobody is going to pick you up

Now nobody knows that you are even here!!!

Do you hear me?

Do you hear me you face your fears

get lost

in nature

cunt-face

assole

idiot– artist-shit

short pause

And there were sounds

sounds in the undergrowth

I heard them

I could not see them, but I could hear them – and I said – as loud as I could – Ja!

Ja!

Ja!

Ok –

Ok –

Ok – So what are you waiting for?

So what are you waiting for?

Ok!

Just eat me – just finish me off –
wolf, badger, fox

Come on!

pause

(in a low voice – repeating herself) Wolf, badger, fox

Short pause

And it's so dark that your eyes hurt
You cannot see clearly, but you can smell it
the fear
Waiting for you
fear was all that was

377

JUST GET ME OUT OF THIS

378

THE MEETING

I was going to this meeting – I'd finally managed to get this meeting, – and they had asked me to be there by half past five and I knew as soon as they'd suggested it, that they were not giving me the time of day – because everybody gets ready to leave the office at five o'clock. And I kept thinking – that gives me half an hour, that gives us half an hour, and *that* is a *very* short meeting.

I mean, people have a life – I get that.

Even I feel like leaving the office at five –

And I get there – and I stand there – and I can't get in. I am stuck between two doors. You need the code to get through the second one – so I have to wait there until somebody can come and get me. And when they finally come they are all flustered and they say – great to see you, reeeeeeeally great to see you, but could you just hold on for a minute, we are closing up a meeting with so and so, – who is like a real player.

– Could you just hang around here for a while?

– Just grab yourselves a cup of coffee, – and then I stand there, and it's soon 16.35, – and when they finally gets out of the office, we all have to say hi, and how nice to see you, and what are you up to these days and all that. And before we have managed to sit down there is only 17 minutes left.

17 minutes.

17 minutes – and I sit there – and I listen – and one of them is having this endless monologue, explaining to me how much they would have loved to work with me, but why and how that is just not possible at the moment and that they really, really would have loved to make this happen, and how special I am, – and what an asset I am, – and I say, ok. OK – if you do not have the time, you do not have the time, and they end up compensating me with bringing up an alternative, like cash, – and it's not bad. The cash. It is just not what I came for. And they promise me this cash, and I don't know what to say, and I realise that I have a headache, and that I feel kind of – All of a sudden I feel nauseous, and rejected, and invaded, and disappointed, and pissed off and grateful at the same time. And when I leave there, when I leave them, I just feel like hitting something.

I mean, we had talked about this
They'd agreed, made promises –
We were going to do this together
I had thought they were interested
I had made plans !

Long pause

And I stand there
And I can hear them talking
And I know that I should be grateful
After all, they have given me all this cash
And at the same time:

What the fuck is wrong with them!
Are they complete idiots!
How can they?!?
Are they just completely braindead?
What the fuck is wrong with them!

Long pause

And you stand there
And you can't get in
You just have to wait
You don't know the code
You just have to wait until somebody comes down and get you

Long pause

And you stand there
And you wait
And you can hear them

And soon there is only 17 minutes left

379

DEPRESSION 2

70,000 buildings, 31,000 houses, 90,000 vacant lots

380

THIRTEEN ACRES

thirteen acres we cultivated that year
thirteen acres
six acres of wheat
five acres of rye
then tomatoes and sweet peas and herbs

we are taking over the coal-yard now
down in Greek town
planning on ploughing fresh ground
for potatoes
and cabbage
and this new single-mothers-program
taking people down from the north
and from up the river

381

WE'RE GOWING CORN AGAIN

382

MY SISTER DOES IT

No, they've started doing it
My sister does it
they grow tomatoes, and carrots,

THAT FEELING

That feeling
When you stand there
Bent behind 7 – 11
Puking you guts out

385

DICKS!

They can just sit there in that dried out armpit that they call work and jerk themselves off
into oblivion!
Dicks!

386

YOUR MUM`S GONNA DIE

Your mum's gonna die
Your dad's gonna to die
Your grandmothers gonna die
Your dogs gonna die

387

THE GANGS ARE MOVING SOUTH AGAIN

They say the gangs are moving south
That the streets here soon will be safe again – all along the green corridor
And over to the market

That it's going to be alright
That we are going to be alright
That this town is going to be alright
That we all – all of us
That it's all going to be fine

388

NO PLAN

No
No
That's not true
I never planned it like that

No

That's not on me

No
That's on you

It's on you I say
This ones on you

That's your fucking mess

I know

I know

I know

Yes – We all know!

Just make sure its alright, ok?

Just make sure it stays like the holy mother of mercy – blessedly unfucked

389

THIS IS IT

This is it

This is it

This is fear

This is real fucking fear

Full on

pure

fucking –

just

full on fear

390

I CAN NOT

I cannot live in this house all alone

I cannot take on all that responsibility

I cannot take care of Lee and Leoni

I don't know how to do it

I don't know how to pay the bills

I couldn't drive a car if I had done

I am afraid of the dark

I don't know what came over me

I don't know what came over me

I don't know what came over me

I don't want to do this anymore

391

THE CRISIS

When the crisis happened I was completely shocked about how

it effected me – I just kept on running to the TV

and another bank had gone – down,

and I could not use my card, my credit card

and people started to make fun of my country, and I –

I had been the one doing that, making fun of my country –

And then I had to tell them, and be vulnerable and tell him –

this guy that was making the jokes – That: I am really worried

I am really worried about my grandparents

About my mother

About my friends

About me

Researchers have found that the ‘crust’ (or outer layers) of a neutron star has the same shape as our cellular membranes. This could mean that, despite being fundamentally different, both humans and neutron stars are constrained by the same geometry

397

SOFT SHELLS ON WHEELS

My uncle has this repairshop in an old casino and at the back
Fusing cars with modern technology, making these bat-mobiles that people surf around in
these days
Like softs shells on wheels

398

ELECTRICITY

And at the top of the old helicopter-deck by the hospital
Some people are trapping wind in these huge sails
like floating, bouncing, brilliant white spheres

For fun I thought at first
But now
Now I think I’ve sassed it out
I think it’s for energy
Catching energy straight out of the air
Producing lights
Lighting up thousands of little led-lights in the evening – down in that old swimming pool
When everybody just gets together and gets down to it dancing and making a lot of noise

399

A NEW EARTH

So what do we know -
Some say they have found a new earth
In space
Floating around out there – just like us

400

END MONOLOGUE

and behind the heavy cover of clouds and the snow that might still be falling, the sky is littered with tiny, tiny speckles. All the way above the cloud cover, high above the atmosphere. Littered with suns, and firestorms, and galaxies, and twin planets. With moons and asteroid belts and strange electrified phenomenon’s, and patterns resembling brainwaves maybe, or our nerve systems, all lit up and alive. And far far away, really out there, deep in the deepest space everything keep on swirling ever so slowly. Swirling and sparkling and glimmering like gold dust. There it is. Strange symmetric swirling patterns of pulsating gold dust all lit up in the dark – all lit up –

[i] Chaudhuri – Una: 1 Land/Scape/Theatre and the New Spatial Paradigm page 23, University of Muchigan Press 2000

[ii] <https://web.resist.ca/~kirstena/pageunderground.html>

[iii] Hans Rosling

