

ANY TIME SOON

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LRL e-editions

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Any Time Soon

THE SAID

can't unsay the said

only say over it

palimpsest relations

stop nowhere

language slaps

welt swells

throat of the speaker

and the spoken to

forgives in time

remembers inside

the house of wrongs

the speaker writes

only want to be held

outside

the spoken to writes

a violent desire

to explode in language

Win

forgive me my optimism
a sin acquired in the West
before the decline of empire

my European instincts
shame themselves in such sun
my gothic architecture belies this newly

minted mood you'd think I ate
some salvia supervised by a holy
shaman in a deserted parking lot

off Sunset Boulevard filming a terrorist attack
by giant boweevils don't you
watch the polls and their birdhouses

dust overtakes the Hollywood Bowl
a cleanup crew always needs work
sweeping up the innuendos

the amphitheatre graduates
so many who go on
to take the pulse of the nation

that is one nation gone under
god's an umbrella my sweetie
hung above the table outside for shade

When We're Not Ourselves

We're busy doubling here
That petite coed she also robs banks

And dear lost idea I just thought you again
while you were tailing prose

And then we sail to Europe
Greeted by seas of cheer

In France we're mobbed
with broken contracts

Everyone who was anyone else
guards their image

If you call me to your ear
I might skip the perfumed mezzanine

Off screen I run the books
while your mustache invites forty for dinner

Oh mama and your air kisses
What were you before you bore me

The girl behind the bar already
Talked back she'll get fired

She's framed America's famished
and drinks are chasing the house

What's On Your Mind

I.

hope you washed your hands before those surgical strikeouts
you're the benchmark of my intentions some verbs stay solid
I may you may he may they may a little bit closer closes not
believing sky is wave sun skin locked your keys jail the feeders
certain truths not evident crowd pleasers cost rates vary see details
"my will is strong and my won't is weak" smoke murmurs
needs don't fill
they need one another and how is your active shadow today
there in that chair infested
room for improvement a burst of violence
sudden asymmetrical skirts
harbor your grudge, I mean dock it such a tidy no
just who counts their blessings
or the doors of a shelter no more post war ever again war "news" replaces
war for those home dough rises empires fall
and how is your "reality-based community"

not on the menu? ask for it

II.

suspicious components eavesdropping like pigeons your call
may will be monitored go to the principal's office who is the principal
why it's old friend John trying to reach the breach of
centuries erase steerage from
look at the pink geraniums boxed on a 3rd floor window
so *charmant* the same color required in every
pot squat or jump in fear or float she went door to door
making garden came back weaker and weaker to visit her babies
a tisket a tasket and green and yellow orange strawberry fill in
untimely wombs
try all possible simulacrum or don't even try

III.

do you know where indignation lives during the pogrom and now again during
the programs occupation pregnant babies delivered into

the terrible clamour bomb the music of metal flashing
quick under branch bowing against
here's an email address for all insurgencies write if you want choose bus fare or
bread I can speak out I was inquisitioned evicted deported
exterminated I have some right don't I I was the boy who
hid under quiet bodies no animal reveals this yes
tonight I'll eat all my organic peas daddy
speech is widely subject to disbelief when a clerk says
I have no idea I blame the state she doesn't have ideas something's on my
mind what it is to be human imprisoned in grownup
like lots of us

Can't Say

*There are certain things
human beings should never do
to one another yet*

Persons do things in extreme
daily. No need to name
those things.

Description
either provokes or numbs
the listener

To whom other things
similar things which should
not have been done

Were done to
someone known of
or knew of

Only new words
for such actions
describe these actions

With terrible clarity
so as to induce a state
of anger, melancholy or

Psychosis in the listener
who listens carefully
to the things people do

In a time in which

a false notion
of civility marks the

Calendar between
centuries which have not
changed as much as

Desired in most
situations behind law
duty command & chains

Some kind persons
would do no harm
would act with

Conscience
instilled so drawn upon
in moments of danger

And yet
behavior evolves as slowly
as appendages as fast as music

Not ceasing
is the wonderment
under circumstances

Who would do
what if you looked at them
in a quiet room

You couldn't tell
what hell they'd suffer
or reek upon

Another given
a situation

a direness

A matter of
gravity pulling them
towards actions

Previously unknown
undesired
unconscionable

Trial Run

If somebody were watching this from Mars, they would not know whether to laugh or to cry.

Noam Chomsky

Let's just take a swipe at "friendly fire" get in get out don't linger
then let's move on to another bar and find a good looker it won't take all
night let's have some fun after all we rehearsed emotions
dressed up with nowhere to go
these people so last millennium so passed civilization
who needs'em behind veils and those
rags on the men's heads all wrapped up in a god
not ours so what that dust invades the lungs
they're young they'll survive there's plenty
and they're dumb and poor and no one
if you're from nowhere war is a game now's no different
from any other time some story some intensity
some life into this lifeless desert
they should be thanking us from keeping them
from bread lines or is it falafel what's the price of a loaf
my father didn't know the price of gold tortillaheads
those lazy peasants
no ambition they move
like sludge they work like
dogs they love like dogs too

fools of heat
they build and the building collapses before
it's finished these people if you call them that

old worlds don't move like the new global
old fathers don't move like the new sons
I haven't been to Europe but I'm sure
it's old filled with walls
that have nothing to do with us
People go because they're supposed to go

take in those churches with saints and popes buried
under their feet creeps me out
I go when I wanna go
like now I'm in pajamas off to sleep
a good sleep and Christ is my witness and my wife

is my sweetheart (knows nothing about the Marias
I fucked in the back room) she reads I don't
we're a perfect couple with bad kids
like every American like you like your family
outta control and reign 'em in and these guys
around me they're older than me
they know from other times how to really do damage
with "brisk fighting" "emerging targets" "catastrophic success"
they know what to say in times of mass distress
they knew what to say in 1970 those gooks escaped
cause we saved 'em for a much higher cause

“the ultimate sacrifice” this is only a trial run
if we screw up there’ll be others
bet your life in movies I like a character
that if he doesn’t like something he destroys it

Code

paws on the paper trail
don't know about mountain lions
I feel a segue coming on
and the next stanza waits in line

bonafide extravagant limbo
sliced to destabilize "imagination's holy forest"
the dominant old growth
dying one paradigm at a time

"culture of evidence" I do want to love you
you mean no fact left behind?
add your income to mine as learning outcome
so to account for "keep copies"

what's a good person to do?
one plus one equals more than we imagine
two do travel well
three's the crowd me myself & I know

the balance won't hold
the center never did
the periphery couldn't
the suburbs up in grass

and so we document our time
electronic thank you very much
fanned out there in my space
no signature all sign

Crash

Thanks for not calling with the inevitable
The evitable is quite enough

As a whisper in your mind I already hear
I don't have special ears

Anyone in my position can tell
From your point of view

At least you held together
Some bodies zing out into atoms

Of who knows what not them
No branch to bud from again

No hatchet to bury and surely no idea
Thoughts race one another without finish

If thinking stays in its crate
Pleasure takes us by surprise

Beauty's tiny laser
Retracts and redacts

Screws right into your eyes
Your lungs or another no-fool organ

Would you believe an old diva
Dictating these felicitations to my bold

And adorable scribe who often
Leaves for more poignant profit

No bite! No bite! I cry meaning two
Things at once when I really mean

Don't hurt anyone
More than you have to

A Long Visit

Opened and left open
An extubation
Did the man say incentivize?
If so I say contact isolation

I'm here though not fully back
The frame newly behind me
Doors don't go out of style
Just where they face and how they slam

Space another set of keys
What does a body need to do to
Transfuse external force
Into lit interior

And also I would like to find money
You didn't know I had
Under my pillow in an unmarked envelope
On a rose marked High Octane Stocks

Can you handle this?
My cut so maligned my oatmeal so steely
My chimney percolating
Ashes of unknown old growth

You got cause for regret? Not me
You is the only pronoun
We wish to hold
A place I never want to leave

Any Time Soon

Things blab not like the pave
Their strings still attached

To touch them would burn the topography
Gloved hands feel only the generality

Specific objects stain their perches
Couldn't they just fly off with such geometry

Tarnished spoons distressing leather mended panties
The mink collar on grandma's cashmere sweater

Slingbacks from a forgotten quick step
A matching clutch for

Swell times to come
Give it all away

Now we're freed from must
The ghostest and the hostess

Burst into some kind of story
Stuff talks to make want

Objects remember better than brains
Out of sight mutes time the noun

Gone thru the below rifled the above
Long before the soft sell-off

Exciting Changes

Do you keep up with the au current and resist all fried info?
Have you too walked into a discourse community
You don't recognize? Two ruffled necklines, three pre-
Existing conditions under the sustainable mattress?
It's ok there are no surprises among the haircuts
The group of seven mows its own laundry now
Leading the way for sassy knolls. The chair's
Here to serve and infuse your concoctions
With diverse drinks. If you don't already know
The protocol is a ballot measure. Vote No!
But step up to the plate glass
And get a good look at the FAQs. How can we improve
(How can I tell you warmly to hire more fresh blacks.)
What's your mandate and how many power bars does it take
To keep saying "strategic" Low hanging fruit
Would be preferable. Have a retreat! See Chapter Two first
And before you spend a year reading handbooks and footnotes
Check Menu Options. Click Shake-Up and stand down

All Words

a full moon explains the day
a chilly reception mimics
the climate she gains

she grows opacity and takes her place
among the strange beauties unsolved
like a crime

people we know begin to wane
we're not done with them yet
we say oh and don't go

as quiet surprise mourning the
sunrise as it rhymes
with something inside

Deserted Storm

man hole explodes
women of yr dreams rise
in pieces

bad weather
delays inward
oil heat

pop popping
lipped now
no pulling out

the stakes “dangerous red”

”paint me into yr corner”

according to logic

a thesis
“based progress” or

words with old meanings
don’t turn
wheels

space wrenched
loyal royal blue

all dictators
rush to hospital
and never leave

old men oppose

rapid withdrawal
it takes so long
to get in

Gimme Another

playing in prose
never locks me up

dearsweet newcomer
among the line

gimme all
the ways you got

my election
by selection

saved elated
divine mine

and the paragraph
and the typesetter's

long earned happiness
now that he's passed

fields of words
reseeding

you mean language
is perennial

oh yes and centennial
and simply genial

a job to do
for all of you

involved in nectar
not nation

Divertimento

Floating untethered space
 How nice your light after dinner anise
But darling your toke is outré
 Wrong bathing suit wrong mouth
What will right “she hates success”
 “counted sweetest” measured by terror
Salesmen pack up your wars
 Oil whores of Arabia
 Was I selling siding?
Life’s too short to spend it in a Toyota
 So drive a cherry red scooter
So long to the man who ran on fumes
 Barely a pulse
 watching ideas go by
Deeply suspicious of big words
 bananas browning
 A line like that won’t hold water
A lie tethered to earth

Brief Awakening From A Coma

stop where you are
sign this paper

name names draw
mustachios

moan but louder
more about no more

until you begin
Cortez still lands

the “past exonerative”
“imported polyester”

you’re a good dentist
not for my bed

it ought to work
appalled still flirting

tell him you changed
you want a woman

I love collage man
he’s got parts

vaseline the fishing line
discourage rodents

encourage the chickadees
who’s stealing the bees

the Magnesians?
the Taciturns?

the Laconians?
sling shot

sushi in space
wasabi out of control

man runs
uphill makes him

forward or can we say
eager to reach the corner

Dragon

How's your friendly fire
Breathing these days?
War's a private caller
A public delay
Not minding the house

Wars drag on
They can't help it
They dress in drag
A war would rather be
A visit a boy touring

A foreign capital
Dragging up the next church steps
Dressed in baggy Bermudas
With a fucking point & shoot
Hanging from his wrist

Convert

I used to be a terrorist
You can imagine the blank on my resume
After recruiting for
WhyWeWanttoKillYou.com

I am enlightened now
By *enlight.com*
Did you go to flight school too?
I did and the DOW lifted greatly

During and after like Herodotus'
Rivers in Libya. Once I killed now
I say Love Thy Neighboring
Guns

This isn't a tale
Of two cities. Martyrs martyr against
Martyrs Incans allied with Spanish
So civilization could triumph

One tribe is the enemy
Of another. That's the way
It's always been. I evolved
By changing tribes

There's a tree and the answer is
One of the missing branches
Paradise once really was mine
I didn't want to die

As day flies from moonlight
I'm freer now
Life is safe and effective
When used as directed

Please Understand

there was no story

no arc of triumph

don't be disappointed
think lyrically

with a photograph

there'd be proof

balk all you like things moved

around even

forward not this

Also by Gloria Frym

Poems

Mind Over Matter

The Lost Sappho Poems

Solution Simulacra

Homeless at Home

By Ear

Back to Forth

Impossible Affection

Stories

Distance No Object

How I Learned

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