



amber faint

Logan Ryan Smith

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amber faint

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amber faint
the scent
of pales
filled
by the crescent
stream
the crick
in the park
beside the pushed
merry-go-rounds
and birthday parties

shadow over
 pooled water
 shade beside
shaped
 in dirt
 by light
 absence
absent-mind
 absent-mine
absent us
 as grass
 and blade
 and bled
 moved along
 side of road
a gust
 that cloud
 stuck-pig
flat tire
 tire-iron
fifteen minutes

redwood mist
 on long black
 eyelash
 left behind
on leafy ground
 brown leaf
gone soft
 tire-tracked mud
leads back
to the highway
road
 bloodstained
 one severed doe's ear

pomegranate
pavement
asphalt
and grass
casual crabwalk
along
em-
bankment
and settled
hillside garden
trees
in tree-side
forest of
trees
and pomegranate
seeds said under
the tongue/
kiss
Kimberly
handles before
the handlebar spiders
roaming over
the entire room
rented
for pennies
less than
the hour spent
at an
other
place

piggyback
past
the liquor store
uphill
the sunning city block
water girl
waters
her clover patch
the tv shows
a pitcher's pitch
a called strike
a list of Ks
the gutter drains
the hopscotch kids away
in slip-n-slide
tenacity
tenderly
the watch chimes
four o'clock
September
the sun goes
brown
as the grass
the crowd
goes
haraaah

fate/fully neck-
ing a
raking
of fall leaves
scent of
old rain
dry branches
high and
rustling
talking to
each other say-
ing "my mouth is dry
and loves the more
I let fall"
fell the words
fell the hand
across her back
between her breasts
the valley slips
October shakes
its pumpkin head
pulls out
the sober
roots
plants a new-
born in
the New Year

Smith River
a woman warms
her back
on the rocks
ferrets
slipping under-
neath
her knees
the water
cool with trout

thistle
and soil
Serena's long hair full
of
water
dripping
dripping waterhole
water
sweat
from parkside sun
encompassed gold
darker
in the center
boys in swim trunks
by concrete border
stare
past
the thistle
past the
beach towel
on brown grass
past the splashes
to watch Serena's
knees bend

ocean roar
the rats'
might
in iceplant
a life-
time
in sand
sunk/
sink
kitchen sink
the water ran
dishwater hands
broken glass
grating soft flesh
under nails
crescent-red
windowed
crescent moon

metallic palate
tongue touching
roof of mouth
like rain
waiting for another mouth
on a street
a windowsill
window
spoon
against the roof
of your mouth
learning
to sing

ambiance
 end
in the red
in there
 their fixed
room-belief
 browsed
 wall
and can
 can can't
the can can
 carried
a bird
 blue ever
the barbwire
 cut the catcher
in the whey
 away from the
 whiskey
cut the cable/
 car out-cancer
and ability
 to make
train sounds
 grey-cloud
 aloud
any
 other
 rabbit
 in the trees

fire-proof
the garment
the pavement
kept
the angle
of the cardigan
the blood-let
the viewers know/
where she was left
where the brake went wet
the rain went sleet
the sleet went slick
windshield went
the girls in
the convent
could pray in
while
the bell
rang
in communion

pooled
 swimmingly
in the nightlight
 across
 the state
there in
the blink
 blinking starlight-
 like
the casual banked
coastal
country
left behind
 in the surf and
 sea-wed
 distant light
lit the artifice
 dead pan
 faux face
and stuffed cat
 cast the net
 Neruda-like
into the weekend break
 catch what
the blackbird could
 cold and left
 mountain-face
right like the old
days careless
and kempt
kept
in the
sanctuary
 or
 catacomb
sisterly
 and
 level
the water
 table leg
 broke
 and desert

nymph in
 deciduous
 cicada
 life-style
voice-full
Echo is brought forth by
 stridulation
 in stride
 removal
 of clothing
for reflection
 of the tree-filled-morning hum
she says
 back
 hzzzzzzzzzz
 wishes her arms
the pool of water
 cashes the floor
 of shells
 and wings
 for breath
 wishes to say
 "Narcissus,
I love myself"

drop of sap
stuck
between teeth
chewing pine
 needles
 air like
salt
 water
 shadow
 shade of tree

crafted
 it was
 an anchor
left
 lofted
 dropped in-
 to the
 harbor
the poet
 wrote "like rubber
 I touched her"
 and "wore
 the bourbon
 well"
into the night
breakers
 breaking
 the grey waves
 weaving
 the gull wings
broken
 and wasted
 "on the rocks"

crabapple
 and tulip
in snow
 rooftops
 two lips
in falling
 snow
two lips under
 crabapple limbs
cracking
under
 snow
 the tulips' breath
the couple
 touched against
the winter
 of snow
 snowed down
over tulips
 and rotten
 apples
the whole house
 roofing
a country
of kissers
in
 snow/
 avalanche
takers

coral rough
scraping
the insides
of your pale
 thighs
dried blood
scent of
 first love
 fish tank
 ornament
 for tropical fish
trying to feel
 at home

Bear Lake
boats drift
drafted by wind
wine drunk
and barely
night fall
the north star
washed out
in firework
spark-fall
shimmering the water
independently
a girl shouts
from a beach house
party sounds
the water rocks
the beat
"and the beat
goes on"

whippoorwill
in
insect-
infected
whirpoled
air
round the light-pole
the moth wings
flutter
and swing
down
dismembered
pieces
unremembering
cohesion
like a mouth
the lessons
learned in
elementary
courses
gum in hair
means temporary
baldness
love notes
are
confetti for
the playground

waterbed
sex-wet
greased-in-love
and carpeted
refrigerated
and coolant
cooling
the radiator
car keys
backseat
talking
saying "the windows
need cleaning"
and candles
on front porches
for the missing
blown out

under the over-
pass
past
the bi-way
through Kentucky
truck-way
and smoked
by the fish
in the lake
in night-light
night like
starlings
satisfied
"gratify"
and "gratitude"
says the worm
"I'm hooked
and all
lived up"

tungsten
the air's out
the window let
the car go
the ocean set
the sun
down
in tungsten burning
twilight
the eye's line
eye liner
airliner
carrying her
over grey matter
and chemical
off the charts
the whole sound
and the wing's justification
she listens
to eighties pop
go the ears
waiting to kiss
arrival

skinny-dipping
double-take-in
the moon-blue pool
pulled in
two sober mouths
mouthing
the air
between
like fish
out of water
wading
and waiting
in the circular
motion
motive
for action
the ringed moon
the quiet roofs
the steeple flower
opening
if only
and slowly

rhododendron
the accordion
sway
of body
stemming
stemmed
and cut
from stalk
the lover
unloved
heartglass
turned over
unicorn flower
hardened in
five feet of
gratefulness
alone
and shifting in
the night
the father
the son
and the holy ghost
gather for
and into
the clover
call St. Patrick over
and mention to him
nakedness
the calling of sin

strawberry fields
 in dew time
 the do-light
 of morning
 the awe-shock
 of yawning
and
 the first signal
 of breath
 on windshields
 the wound lung
 the kissed tongue
 the words
 upon
 the day
 in print
begun
 begin
 how to
 begin
the sad thing
 again
 the half-assed
 multiplexed
 cathedral
building

grain silo
 afternoon
 the rain-gutter drains
 evening autumn leaves
 late sorrows
latent brown-lit curtains
 curtaining
 the show
 flat fields
machine-ridden
 aftermath
 after math
 after the course
 has been driven
 geometrically
 perfect
 "all's square"
 the cartoon men
 their books of matches
 matching
 their checkered
 collars
smoke by the
 hazed horizon
 burning-crop-sky
 ready for rain
 have their ladies
bring them sugar
 sugarbeet
 the factory

emerald ice
 there own
the castle
 and balloon
the horn blown
 for a weather
system
 carried thru
 all oblivion
the green
and blue
 the crystal
 the stone
the break
of the cold
 careful glance
before
the casual
and calculated lakeside
 move
castling
the king
 from the left side
there is room
 yet for diagonal
color and foam from
 the turquoise
waters
of the Gulf
 cancel out
 the quiet
birds
 and
by the slip
 undanced
 slept

saddled w/
expectation
capitulation
the accident
in the garden
where the face
was flowered
done
the baker
baked and found
a glacier
in the mound
of dough
the way casualties
could be born
dropped
and burned
the hour of
the rising
sun
and moon
the hour past
and handled
to ghost
got
tired

tear drop
 the eye's lot
 "thanks a lot"
reservoir
 chain-linked
and still
 sitting
 sat
 tight
under the Imperial sun
desert
 and deserting
 sobbing
farmers
 and prayers
 in the thistle's head
 far less

vine-time
the park
doesn't move
all over the pine
and the ash
bicycle path
coupled legs
and a birdbath
duck lake
child's play
kiss-kiss
a double-date
dated
walkway
1906
walked away
passionate

riverbed
 to the wed-
 ded
couple lay
in and out
 before the water
 splays
and cancels out
 an option
of a bank
 the way the ringfinger
twitches
 at the lake
 the middlefinger
moves in the backseat
 and casual glances
 from avenues
make actual advances in the streets
 for in the marriage
of heaven
 the making of a
 movie
and "we are young"
 on the radio
 the carry of voices
and beating into
 this battlefield
 the felt
archaic
 table

sparrow
 shared the
 seed
with others
 had the tree
 in order
gathered family
 in
and said
 "we'll have a ball
a three-sectioned orchestra
 and twelve
 professional dancers"
 felt the sky
 coarse rain
and squeal cold
 till hail
 fell
and in the end
 the godfather
 of rock and roll
said
 "to hell with this
 my girl has bright
 eyes"
the sound of trumpets
 the beginning
 of the night

happy hour
 over three ago
 this open bar we make
in porch light
 and river-glint
glistening under sky
 writing itself
 saying
 "big"
 "get it?"
drinking in
 all soaked up
 sipped at edges
filled to the brim
 and drunk
 and dunked
head-first
 next time
 feet-first

bee spit
asphalt slick
and sickened
sickly
awash in spring
and sprung
the afternoon
to fruition
and fruit-bearing
trees
blossom
in skin
of ants
the praying mantis
on pomegranate
sucks seeds
breaks legs
in his teeth
the cricket's
mother
covers
her violin

felted
 the coarseness
 of the basic
candid
 hour item
in them
 the hour done
newspaper
 sound
under the eve
and for
the genuine
 accidental
 mistake
make
 this a whole
 new item
timed
out
 chimes in
 the ringer
rung
 roundhead curtain-breath
broken window
wound
 horrible state
 to be born in
the still-born
casualty and
 minute of
 second's thought
 for
another

sun's side
against
backside of foot/
hill
carriage of
black-wing
buzz-bird
dirt trail
winded

out right
 angle of snow
 to the left
 left the
 restaurant hungry
headed to the bar
 outside
 curbside-glisten
 and Christmas-
light red/green
 blinking
 the reindeer away/
 aside/
 besides
 Frosty the Snowman
 gas station attendant
pumps premium unleaded
 melting
 and wrapped
 in a scarf

gravel-faced
 fevered in
the absolute
of zero
 concrete
basic statue
 beyond
cloud
 or
above
 theirs
there
 the floating
and
 characteristic
casualty
 of the moving sky
there
in
a backyard
 a Popsicle
 house

stabled in
horsey horse
around
 the stables' stint
stained the carpet
red
 ready now steady
stable
 ready round the alphabet
 countryside
counter tide
 tidings
 good
for the winter in
 summer
 carry the horse head
 horse-headed
out of the country
 U.S.
headed in
 stable
instable incombustible
 able
labeled the horsey
 faced
shit-faced-face
 the west countryhide
mountain-wake
 -up
 mountain on the radio
staged
the broad cast
 the net until
 the last horse
dropped dead
 there
the horse's flag
fell
for hours
on end
in
deed

ocean sand
waiting
to be turned
into glass
under approaching
stars
folding into themselves
little by little
like a prayer
blown glass
hourglass
turning over

white space
placed
as opposition
to
space
in accordance w/
space
and forward with
movement
in shade of
rabbit
white white
rabbit
JUMP
and frog for
ribbit
JUMP
the ribbit rabbit
gone into
the woods for
gone
up what
their can
and can can
canned up
forward
on

picture-perfect
and solutionable
soluble
salvable
and endangered the
scene
of careful blue eye gardens
in back of
bone yards
here in the front grass
turned up
or over
and under
for sunshine
or summer
seasonal
adaption
the movement
of back and/
forth
the eyes roll
over
and
snow