

Poems

Edward Arruns Mulhorn



These hands

These hands
Which held you,
Which captured your form
Drugged on the toxic of flesh,
Love-drunken and warm

These fingers
Which traced the paths
Of your face,
The curl of your neck,
Of your breast, of your waist

These lips
Which slipped
Round your shivering skin,
Which married your mouth
And breathed you in

This nose
Which blindly sought the curves
Of your half-clothed body,
Trembling with life,
Christened with sweat

This body
This brow
This being
This now

She looks at me

She looks at me with eyes
Like cold blue cauldrons,
Frosted with disinterest or disdain;

She twists her crying shoulders
From the calling of my arms,
She leans aside against my touch
Till nothing more remains.

Who can tell her meaning
From the motions that she makes?
Who can hook upon her mind
From what she neither does nor speaks?

I stare into a wilderness
A lost, unloving place –
Those vacant cold blue cauldrons
Which simmer on the palate
Of her face
Like frozen eyes.

I turn against that wilderness,
I steal into the night;
But sleep is branded by that face –
Those vacant eyes which cast from mine,
Which sow derision's barren crop,
As if myself the crime.

Night on the Town

Weak whisky fumes still in my hair,
Still washing round my throbbing head,
From last night's last term's devil-may-care,
When I should be in bed instead
I marched the pavement down Sloane Square,
Across the road to number three –
My mind filled with your face, your hair,
Your smile, and my timidity.
I found your flat, I rang your bell,
I waited, anxious, at your door,
I heard that voice I know so well,
Then there you were – the same once more.
We went downstairs, across the road,
The pub invited, we went in,
My love encrypted in Morse code
Was tapped unheard beneath your gin.
We shared some chips, another drink,
I paid the bill, I held the door,
The air was chill, your cheeks were pink,
Your eyes more emerald than before.
I told you that I loved your smile,
You answered it was very cold;
And cold the empty half a mile
Back to your flat. And then the bold
Insane attempt to say goodbye,
To kiss your cheek, to grasp your hand,
To share my tortured soul, and my
Heart, in the hope you'd understand...

Victoria isn't quite the place
To hide from midnight and the pain
Of feeling your disarming face
Dissolve in darkness once again.
Each time we part the distance grows
Between us, as a riven void
That won't, despite my efforts, close
Till all I yearn for is destroyed.

Nothing can last

Nothing can last

And when this future is past,
When I turn around the clock
And I see

In all its wretched agony
This moment, this time

Only then will I divine
The stupidity
Of being me

The absurdity
Of this illusion,
Of this false fusion

Cementing me
To an insanity,
To a need I cannot break

To one immense mistake

So real, so true –
So bound to you

Unwilled, unwanted, unnoticed, unseen
Obscene

Yet beautiful
For having once been there,
For having once aroused a care

A silent shame
Fretting around me again
And again

Till I cannot move
For the pain

Can you see me now

Can you see me now
Here
In this room,
Can you see me
Watching you?
Can you feel my eyes
Sink through your skin
And stare within your soul?

Can you hear me now
Here
At your back,
Can you hear us
Breathing as one?
Can you feel my breath
As it fills your chest
As it fires up your lungs?

Can you feel me now
Here
With you, now
Can you feel me wrapped around you?
Can you feel the strength
Of these arms which enfold
To lock you in,
To lock you, here with me, now?

Once Upon a Time

When Time was young
When minutes passed
The more they passed,
The more they came and burnt away,
I had no thought to count the clock
Or tinker on my fingers precious hours

For wake seemed much as sleep –
A thing of dreams –
As careless to my reckless self
As when surrendered
To my slow-sprung,
Sympathetic bed

Why should I else? I was a creature then
To whom this counted state was artifice;
My mind and senses were my world –
Awake, asleep –
A rich illusion
Which grew the more fantastic by the day

And still it grew

Now I am tired and lame,
My mind is worn –
I am a spot, a stain upon humanity;
No longer can I process what I see
Without imposing factories
Of cultivated space and time

What once was mine –
Space without limit,
Time without cause –
That infinite being
Beyond question or pause –
Is lost

In the stillness that has come

In the stillness that has come there is nothing –
No laughter, no tears.

I am barren.

I have reached that tranquillity of despair

In which nothing is left me –

Nothing is all.

It is so long,

This age which I must tinker out,

Peddling through the hours;

So long before we meet again

An hour ago your eyes were buoyant,

Were radiant, as they sought my own;

Half an hour, and I saw the crest of your

Round-turned head slip beyond all sight

So easily I thought nothing of it,

As I have trained myself not to think

So it is now

Only now

And the passive infinity to come

Which is full of what and who is lost,
Of what I have become
And needs must be

She is gone

She is gone

Camilla
It is so long –
These unfocused months which spread before me,
To be filled with feinted life.

How, how is it to be borne?

I know nothing but this loneliness,
This utter isolation
Which cannot be breached

I reach out
And there is nothing

Madam, I'm Adam

When God said unto Adam
'Guess what I'm going to do? –
I'll knock you up a woman
Who'll be just right for you',
He little knew the consequence
To post-primordial man,
How great would be the recompense
For such a mighty dam.
(This shows how even Godhead,
With charitable cause,
Can turn man's grand design instead
To fights and menopause.)
He little thought man's lofty aims
And dignified desire
Would all go up in carnal flames
And cinder in Eve's fire.
For man, he is a gentle fool,
Though bold and brave and strong:
He took the thing he thought he'd rule
And ere the day was long
He'd fawned and grinned, he'd begged and knelt,
He'd grasped both heart and gun;
She'd gone at him with tongue and belt,
She'd scratched and kicked, and won.
And ever since, in servitude,
He's lived beneath her will –
The victim of each changeful mood,
The one who pays the bill;

And still, yes still, she tortures him
With threats and well-spun lies,
She subjects him to every whim,
And will, until he dies.

Drowning

Hold me here, on this wind-worn cliff,
Above unwinding shores
Stung with the pallid glow of dawn
Released from night's chill claws,
For yawning life is waking
To its cyclic genesis,
And the dew-sweet mists of morning
Wash upon me with a kiss.

Each day and every day I hear
The sea-surge pounding in my ear
Its frightful warning, cruel and clear,
That it will rise and take me.
Yet come the curtain of the night
That flame of darkness flickers bright
And fuels my dance, my eager flight,
Down to that selfsame sea.

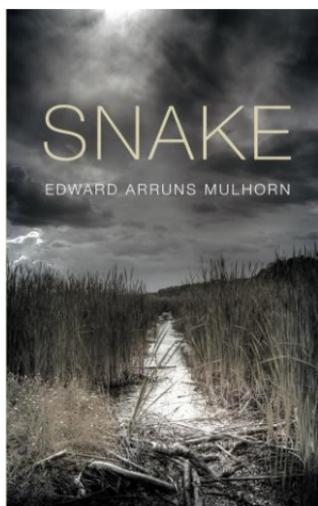
But should I go what follows on,
When I am lost and there is none?
When, even if alive, inside
I'm hid from that wherein I hide?

Is this, this populated land,
Too hard for such a man as me –
Trapped in a bald humanity
I cannot come to understand?

Is this, the salt that stings my eyes,
This thing, with neither form nor guise,
This demi-hell, this paradise –
Is this where my true future lies?

No! Let me rise and drink again
From pools where once I cried;
My listless, wishless world of pain
And anguish will subside

By the same author –



The ley is a world apart. A paradise, a prison. A raw and elemental wilderness; a place of lost innocence. Bowing to seasons, to wind and to fire, to the shocks that nature thrusts upon it.

Within its labyrinth of reed, creatures search and stumble blind. Vengeful, beautiful, unforgiving. Living and thriving, surviving and dying, feeding off themselves.

Into this merciless world the girl is lured irresistibly. She is drawn to it, repelled by it, drowned in its subterfuge and shame.

Trapped and unable to escape, she is changed irretrievably, beyond the power of salvation. Beyond redemption. Transformed and reborn, only to be compelled to confront her ecstatic nightmare repeatedly. Locked in a cycle of death and life.



Ever since he arrived in the village of Nettlesden, Matty has been warned not to enter the wood. It has lain undisturbed for years. The trees within it creak and groan perpetual pain; they yawn an invisible agony at the life that lies buried within. No one has reason to go near, except for Uriah.

But Matty is enthralled by its savage beauty, and entering deep into its heart he begins to discover its secrets. Things that the villagers thought dead and forgotten; and things they thought were alive.

What Matty uncovers prompts shame and denial, setting the village against itself, and threatening all those who live there.

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