

Poems by Annie Blake

DAEMONIUM

για τον σαμόνο μου

/ his dementia / black frost of the body / boudoir of the forest / nequeo or nequitia then narnia /
delights from her silver box / compass and a lambpost / arslan tash and lilith / snow jadis /
when my mother called me inside the class room / she called me a demon and slapped my head /
and the black shadow / quicker than a thought / as swift as the return of the repressed /
i could hear his insides groaning / black clad woman / releasing the tension of an elastic band /
the snap / as quick as a bow and arrow /
/ otherworldly gait / gateshead hall / unwalked house / i wrote down my sins / inscription
on my neck / of a bottle of wine / and carried it around at assembly / i had to meet with her
to make a confession / she called me into her sickroom / took out a letter from her silver box /
will my children ever forgive me / confetti falling and sticking to the ground / when i jumped out
of the window and ran in the rain / i knew then that this world would soon end /
/ the tenant of wildfell hall / she was just a wife / tartar emetic for her son / till he sicked it all up /
because / it's better than hypocorisms and the last fall / remember / drummler got killed and
estella kissed her horse / i wanted to take her with me / but where i am going / you cannot come /
/ she locked me in / the room was hot and red and his entry and our sun of light / all i could do
was add fuel to the fire /
/ and when i woke up / i opened the door and walked through all the rooms / undressed
the mirrors so i could catch who was behind me / the ceilings were high and the rooms kite-white
/ barefoot / steps without echoes / fin de siècle /

DANCE OF THE VEILS

για τον σαμάνο μου

/ the marriage of us / the child crumbled like premature cake / for the child sees herself / specular
mother and the father / parataxic distortions / béance / para-noia is nous and noesis / is finally
madness / so we arrived at the tree / roots eating mead / the branches / paths and arms /
and it was wider than the whole of the world / the leaves unclthe the greatest tree / skin
sculpture or an entanglement / a bag of macaroni / bent bodies / or knotted stomach / urszene /
a knot and i can't breathe / sweaty and swiney and my ego /
/ sick in the sink / and not from plenitude / my arms and legs growing like roots / the latch
opened when the wind climbed up the stairs / and the soul / interlocking language / i wasn't a
body / shining concertina movie / no matter which way i flew / i couldn't fit into my house / john
the baptist / stepped into the water and baptize me /
/ he told me / i wasn't supposed to call on a tribal man / or her cherry / the cherry tree myth / for
he was already married /
/ he fell thrice / repetition of neurosis / return of the real / so dead / i returned at the seventh gate /
unio mystica / when the phallus links / our language is the whispers in the tree / elision / do not
read me stricto sensu / lapsus / because whatever cannot be said will be coughed up / give me
the eye-span of a hammerhead shark / surfing under the pier / to peer over the edge of my body
or the skin of the world / for my body is a shoreline / salome / her chawl and hagar / her dove
on the pyre / between adolescence and womanhood / dance of the seven veils / the tremolo and
the trill / her thigh is the first skin of the throne / body and arms make the table / for the orchestra
will command / the symptom will seduce / his remarriage / herod the holy man / the clash and
the climax / and the tying of the knot /
/ body caged / wired by the staff and the stave / fingers wraped like a fist / a pear or an apple / we
had to dig / we were cleaning out a process / so we had to call for the services of an undertaker /
sometimes i wear diamond studs all over my body / ears and my intuition / erect walls /
/ i drew the veil in the confessional / his face / he cannot speak but he can breathe / temples
moving / mountains / terrain / aboriginals fly out like birds / for their feet feel the dips and
valleys / baptiste / scapegoat / / my head on a plate /

THE RAIN OF MAN

"Tell about what we're gonna have in the garden and about the rabbits in the cages and about the rain in the winter and the stove, and how thick the cream is on the milk like you can hardly cut it. Tell about that George." in 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck

i had a male midwife / my bed is vast and blue like the sea / a doorway and a child / fishing
with a rod / there are no longer any walls / i sleep inside him like i'm bathing in a spring / i open
like the beak of a bird / and i can span the eye of heaven / he was a farmer who turned the earth
around / he spread spikenard over his wrists / i used to buy expensive perfume before we married
/ volupté / and knelt by his feet / he will beget his child / but this time i dismissed him /
because he won't stop coming until i confess the price /
/ i swung my legs at the edge of the water / the way the hands of a clock / and the way he used
to tic / slipped in deep / toes and legs / trunk and gnarled trees / held tight to his roots / he slept
with me / but he was holy / and old-whole / coarse / bumpy until i found a bunion / i climbed him
up to the hem of his lips / felt for her nodes / the onion-notes of her voice / a deafening
or a fullness because there is a structure of the cone rainforest / younglings die and wives still
live to roost /
/ her body / hot in the nascent sun / sinless sinew / nude as water / arms / caladenia venusta /
giving her spiders for the sun to taste / their arrangement in a vase / at the roots / rubber bands
and band aids / for whoever knows where the roots will end /
/ he / meat-tree / grain-fed haven water / childhood hair like maypole ribbons / and arms /
of the fields like alms and tilled / he pattered in my body / summer rain from a fountain
and morning loft / a tree / far-reaching and a beanstalk / her nipples / hard as nails /
and my magic faraway tree /
/ and then relief came / the storm / a child's chesty cough and rain plumped up like a bruise /
eventually it greens and yellows / oceanic winds and easter weather / the more i waded /
and swam with my body / a rose / and washed my sins away / the night in the moon / he told me i
was quiet where i was low /
/ i tried to dust her vase / but it slipped and broke / my father used to call me butter fingers /
my fingers in too many pies / and i was afraid to buy the vase off her / because if our friendship
ever gave out / i would be forced to remember her / i washed my hands clean instead / to push
out of a pussy egg / to squeeze a pimple on my face / i would have to sit / long enough / to see if
they would hatch / on the hill / where he and i ran and firred in the rain / for he was on calvary /
ovary and tax collector / my indigo man /

LAILA TOV

'Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?' (Job 10:10)

/ i lost my spoon / for i no longer needed to be fed / for there is something more valuable
than the silver spoon / but to take the dose / for gabriel takes out one at a time and puts them into
the fire like coal / dark as a den / when it's windy / and my son ensconced / otzar / fine-crombed
stone and sand / money hidden inside walls will get eaten by mice / and then my door opens but
there is nobody there / her mouth joined of feathers / soft brown red /
like the breasts of blue birds / hinges flap like wings and money in winds / bird / soap-white / for
there was brooding over the water / because mary was a darkness / when mid-life comes / her
midwife call / she came to follow her / potential and capacity / and i slept on a rock like a pillow
/ for the pillar is the altar and bethel /
/ the treasury / edible meat / fresh set mind / a / light during the holocaust / i had to watch
her burn / men in brothels like they're drinking coffee / for i didn't want to learn how children
were left on mountains for gods / i watched a war scene in his mind and he spoke / sneddon
syndrome / for now there is snow on the hill / iron snibs sunk / like clean teeth in her white bread
/ for there are anchors and doors in the ground / let the wind unfurl like young tongues when she
speaks / for sometimes the eye of a well needs to be locked so a hook / cheese made in cottages /
the dipping in and a safety string / muscle like ship rope / or cliff edges and faces / crack through
the snow like old feed / double-dipping on the family table is reconcilable / remember
in the market place / criss-cross cloth hanging down / for when my husband bled / a gauze and
linen / like the baskets for cheese / milk of goats / saved blood in the share house /
/ a coat with fur on the outside will make you think you will be warm / is it a sin to walk in
another / lightweight wood / and closed doors should never be forgotten too open / for the fort
will crumble like her hot body / no man should lie down / but to furl / will i ever hear his groan
speak / grown-bearing womb / to bare oneself and bear it all / the philtrum is vestigial / his blood
in the cracks in his lips like rivers / does anyone ever kiss / heart-deep / for the primitive woman
/ permission of her animal / for her recovery of the blind man's oeuvre or supplication of his
ovary / my covenant with man / bloody mary /

SCHWARZWALD

my husband, my children

/ life precipitated / moving sea-ward / caught in a rip / semen in a cervix because sea-men / will
rest in peace / heaven-field heaved like hills / healed my belly / and cauldron-round / rendezvous
or a roundabout / when he asks me for love / molten-mouth to mouth resuscitation / my foot
squashed into the slipper until it bleeds / all he needed was the midnight stroke / cinder
and agni / jumpstarting it when lightning strikes / nadis and the spine of the hazel tree /
the garden of hesperides / dark legs like copper pipes / a silver-rimmed porthole / the dove loved
unto her / silver gowns and feet of gold / human branches / christ kringled / nails through
his hands and feet / my leg muscles are broken / i touch into the dearth-hearth flame / flimflam
the sucker with my little finger / blaze like a candle / and i'm as sea worthy as both of them /
/ exorbitant ego / chocolate dressed / rare-haired woman / avocado juice bleeding
on the chopping block / her eyes / plucked / black longinuskreuz / lost in the anatomy
of the forest / her staccato saccades / from word to word / leaf to leaf / unfulfilled orgasm / as she
proceeds to the next arm / outward breathing and beating of branches / red like chinese dragons /
a ghost / a blue mist from the forest / and full of sleep / came
and compensatory mistletoe / my mother used to say / one day i will get fed up
and jump off a bridge / grasses in a sanctuary / pier for birds / something happens to me
when i'm in my room / convoluted tongue and a silver sword /
/ for my father always told me if he ever got terminal he would crash his car into a tree /
sometimes she looks like a room / red wallpaper / black façade / inside her body / safe
and diachronic trunk / dendrochronology and growth rings / and my fingerprint / patterns
and evolution and my genome consortium / dna helix / she assures me i will grow like an acorn /
her intonation soft / pretty flesh pink / blossoms / my tree grows like a point / pregnant pine /
pulp yellow / brink of nests / of blood-lined apples and a canopy / because she is hathor
and the sycamore tree / seed and star / on the way to school my children love and smile /
nicknamed it the nipple tree / yellow eyes of jouissance / bones and the juniper tree /
/ poppy grass and the blood of lamb /

PARADISO

for my children

/ empyrean fire does not extirpate the body / my child was burnt / they wanted me to rise / flesh
morning bread / eyeball made of golden hair / grows a desert / strewn straw / fire floor and ra
rugs / gods interlock their bodies / theophrastus and his fire of the eye / light belly ignite /
the sky glows orange even though the clouds are black / i light a candle between my mirror and i
/ order a table for two / dairy cows float in the sky / i sow black clouds / white sky / isidwaba /
cow's hide in water for seven days / and the heat of the sun with a milkwood tree / it's true /
i'm good at milking / cheesy blonde / variegated cheese like verdigris /
/ i realized i had removed my shoes / sometimes the roots of the bush ruptures the ground / arms
like rolling pins / turn green / unsleaved arms of leaves for me / they taught me how to switch on
and off / to burn when necessary / to become a fire or a light / like energy or a christmas tree /
/ teeth that turn inside our mouth like the revolver of a gun / blind parrot / my body is an atm
machine / he secures the gates of my back with a padlock / resentment and nietzsche / or
/ put more simply / we all have our complexes / idiosyncratic repertoire /
/ for neither the noble nor the slave / but when your father dies and your mother runs out
of money / cannon fodder / but there is always some resistance / clash and / opposition and
a sparking against two rocks / barabbas ascends the stairs / so i have descended / climbed out
of the water / he teaches me / but i'm not ready for a river / not silken / but flakes that fall / a
quiet world /
/ hongan / for my body is a road and a cross / loa and alaase / my son asked me to write down
his chores for the day / scrunch the paper into a ball and throw it to him like a cannon ball / i shot
out of a horse's mouth / but there was an army of men / a handcuffing /
/ because my child is older than me / the light is the way we goat-climb a rainforest cliff /
i put my hand in her hair / she is a golden field and a bath of light / i must remember that hell
is transitory / saint barbara and lightning and fire / showed me how i extinguish candles
with my cigarette / the moon / incendiary and an armillary sphere /
/ loose cannon and a row of spades in the ground like the gate of a cemetery / i tuck an ace
of spades into his mouth / late summer watermelon / furry and unbrushed teeth / plush gums /
for i have rarely honored my contract of truth / his wife and children were watching /
and their predilection for percussion instruments /
cognitive dissonance /

/ eternal symphony of my wrath /

THE TWIST OF THE CROSS AND THE CORN

*'I lift void eyes and scan
The sky for crows, those ravening foes,
Of my strange master, Man.' The Scarecrow by Walter De La Mare*

/ the crotchet of wicker / it took me an hour to untie the christmas lights / for my constancy / she
gave me a banquet of flowers / a vase made from fishing net / displayed it in front of the mirror /
inside the heart of a wardrobe / my father constructed for their honeymoon house / she wore
golden shoes but her skin was jaundiced / my body made of hay / simulacrum / jack o'lantern /
a shaman foments a candle in my head / pumpkin / the fruit buried in the sand / till it's summer /
i become aboriginal black / sun and surf bleached / psegma chrusou in curly black hair / herbs
and hallucinogens / i'm a heretic / halloween and thanksgiving / when i should remember
my blessings / but of a bucolic utopia / family farms of my heritage /
/ tomato flames / pomme d'amour / it grows from the ovary and is filled with seeds / wheatfields
with crows / van gogh / there's no corn mother / the crows come when the water fails /
are they coming or have they been called / liminality / this peripheral field / will the spring come
/ or will the spirit take me / i draw the short straw / red in a bundle of sticks / a besom to scare
away what is vitally black / a light lake for i was flying high / i was so happy i cried salt
and a canola field /
/ garish effigy in the city / stuck in its mouth like a shark / my lips like the slit of a piggy bank /
kakashi / between the bread and the whine / my sale of indulgences / expropriation / the house
can spin-off when the wind comes / three taps of her red shoes / it's time to go under / o sancta
simplicitas / many critics say walter de la mare was infantile / let the children come to me /
for the kingdom of heaven is theirs / the annunciation and his left ear / she questions me / why
can't you hear /
/ the children of the corn / will wreak havoc if there are no ears / a conch /
an upside down treble clef / is how we unbind connectedness / the pope and the queen are not
vernacular / recanting the apple and the cross is the vengeance of the gods / for to be unconscious
is to be the guardian cherub / i will never cast her off / lucifer and sea of dark run / drive
the birds back home / harbinger of death / this lunar sanctuary / mother and father lunacy / my
neuroses and the navajo medicine man / moth madness and the medicine wheel / the body
of a fakir is aniconic / he warns me // the consubstantiation // // the long hall table //

ELEGY TO WHOEVER I AM

ego postulo ut influunt

stratification of skin / slimy / uncuttable fat /
my divisions / hypostatic union of the belly / infinite
death and dredges of non-sleep / ledges
in my throat / i pray for god or the devil /
chalcedonian creed / open you / day
door / night time antinomies / there is a mouth
that can breathe out fire / cracked hands
in a reliquary / unprintable painting / flaps
of wall / flicking through a medicine man / the circular
press of a breadcrumb road /
ineradicable leaves gutted in the east / or unnested
births / the slough wings / stream of crooked cure /
i want to be the veins of the tree / o oven
of the branch /

STALKER

/ my heraldic crest / my dress is a king's crown / irascibility of crucible mother / and so i married
kyshtym kingdom / she made me wear a 50s dress and a belt / i looked like a woman / the buckle
my father used and his father / 30 silver pieces and sham-shiny / and i checked my son's femur /
/ so i became an ambelic / uncoined my umbilical / grew his stalk / adorned the square
on my back instead of over my navel / yoni yantra and the four psychological functions /
for to douse my head and out emerges my krater infant / for she swanned in the pool
and in chlorine / her lead-head on the marble table / for i thought i had already reproduced / now
to carry christ on my back / and my backward belly instincts /
/ i sat next to the woman and put a coaster on the table / a glass of water / tilted my head /
monkey¹ wore the mazzaroth / made the glass vessels move / for we don't necessarily walk
forward with our feet or our mouth / her father's wishes / for hathor / a cattle train can rattle
a hole house / the glass falls / so it called and whistled / chisel-whittled and i let it pass /
for i used to prefer the roller coaster at the fair / she showed me the crest of a wave / worth all
my births / and my husband fanned my spine /
/ and the ridge of an umbilical thread of mountains / red ribbon tied to each branch / and i had to
walk / sewing from tree to tree / they took off my crown and gave me a tail instead / telekinesis
and the wishing flowers / washed-white butterflies / doves / the pistis sophia and my childhood
and my children on the carousel that day at the zoo / for animal prisons / cathedral candelabras
to palm candles / passover the brass band / we build nuclear weapons and wärmetod / war is
entropy / for the man who cracks his spine and cheats her / will lose his legs / as thin as snapped
wire-bones /
/ i could see the cart from its beginning and how much longer i would have to wear cargo pants /
she saw my upsatis house / sati / my past razed and in the room / before the last glass breaks /
sympathetic system / plexus solaris is a spinning wheel / children who down too much ice-cream
/ cold vanilla cone of the kkk / clown hat / pom-pom as red as a rosacea nose / jumping through
hoops and spilling wine / because sometimes mothering is too / preened and pureed /
/ the doctors were closed / so i went to the child health nurse instead / confessional cell /
to contain without rupture / forgive me father / for i have skilled the skillet and skied the skull /
found my cat scalded / an iris scan at the prison gate / for the man who enters is sometimes not
the man who leaves / to see eye to eye / and iris reconciled heaven and earth and put purple irises
on my grave /
/ for the stone of jacob / crested the mountain / the crux ansata and spun a hrycg / the boy let
a ferret out into his mother's coop / a chicken will flap and squawk / they have a crest but
are afraid of snakes / and whatever is isolated or split off will keep pecking for more / the 13th
fairy or judas iscariot / my son / with a spindle / / pricked /

1. 'Stalker' by Andrei Tarkovsky (1979 film)

AND NERO PLAYS THE FIDDLE AS THE CITY OF ROME FALLS DOWN <here>

“Most Americans realize that there are two groups of people who are monitored regularly as they move about the country, ...The first group is monitored involuntarily by a court order requiring that a tracking device be attached to their ankle. The second group includes everyone else...”—The Secrets of Surveillance Capitalism by Shoshana Zuboff

/ on the cutting room floor / primordially or primarily / scenes which are too dark / for his father
was worried that his grandchildren would not be blonde / i shed forth my bildungsroman /
/ so when the gazelle glides its wings in the garden / i uproot words with a child spade /
/ a pitch fork / / a trident bell /
/ as i wait for my shaman / filtered water bottle and a small disposable cup / and as soon as i start
to drink / a stain of blood / out of my body a flood / noah and the arka of seed / it's in my blood
to raise the lead / i was born in blood and when i die / the scene of an old age battle / a stone
circle / the sulcus primigenius / and the borobudur temple / for the carousel is grand at the fairy
stand / one day all my people heard my shadow and they all came and gathered around me /
/ so i handed my husband over / dead bodies must speak / the longer i let him soak / our mixture
of our bodies / my hand deep is our well of souls /
/ participation mystique / my psychopomp / but i told him to be quiet as we walked / sometimes
floorboards sing songs / showed him how to stop breaking the floor under our children's feet /
because some men embrace us while they pinch the fat of our abdomens /
/ the woman being treated was in an adjacent room / and a confessional curtain / her moon-moan
/ i stayed up awake all night and since i was burning like fire / it's important to wash the clothes
of our children separately / my menstrual cycle and the washing cycle / otherwise water
machines become dead boxes / yantra the color of livor mortis / then clean blue metal and our
aura /
/ for our enmeshment and the oedipal complex / children in handcuffs / most of us just pretend
they play / his facial expressions slow / when he's angry the door begins to glow / i enter the next
complex / the prohibition of my glass of milk and my chocolate biscuit / my husband's walls
crashed down / i rattle the knob / he tells me he's already in / our children are under the ground /
so i seered through the keyhole /
/ the old curiosity shop / panopticon / beleaguered / digital and surveillance capitalism /
marooned on the moor / innocence and predation / nell / quilp was the recurring neurosis / for it
was her own blood who stole her coin / destroyed the hem of her hips / pecuniary lust / for she
rose into the heavens like a faerie / immortal light / for occidentals pretend they are eternal / i
prepared him / culinary cup / knife and fork / for the river trent often floods / for the trespasser
often leads the way / peter pan / pusillanimous pussy / puer aeternus / for he often rides the goat
and plays the pipe / ding doll bell and tinker bell mends pots and pants / the cat is in the well /
let us ring now for her knell¹ / for when we are full of dreams /
/ when civilians in hell burn like wax / who will be the one to bell the cat /