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# When the Flamingo Flies



16 Poems Written a Year Before the  
Pandemic of 2020

Natalie Serovy

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Squalid bikes make Squalid knives

Sharpened by necessity.

Lightning strikes on rubber tires  
Through tired Key West projected skies.

Blood spatters on  
Cleopatra in the basement made of dirt  
laying blissfully beside  
her favorite feline kitty cat  
apple of her eye.

Bullets in on Cooksie street  
Wayward alleyways  
Butter beige pigeons  
cooped inside.

Ms. Butters never ever calls on  
Margarine  
dreams

Because it would be  
a buttered blasphemy.

Liver nor onions are not clean.  
Never play those dangerous games.  
Squalid bikes make squalid knives  
sharpened by necessity.

Venetian League

Much older than the Venetian League like  
everything in history. History repeats.

Slavic games are the same  
in this specific generation.

Poker face and  
poker hands  
good and bad  
better and best  
worse and worst

Circle center never complete  
All we have is now and then there's  
These.

Just each other and another Venetian invention.  
These.

Budget Blinds  
They open up and with ease.  
Budget Blinds  
Behind We See.

Pacific Palisade Crusade  
The fires are raging on the California Coast  
Blazing all the way.  
So raise a glass and raise the price.  
It's not hard to pay.  
The fires are the faddy.  
Katabatic chaos blows the most.  
Up your ass.  
Apoplectic strokes.  
Engulfment of gray brown  
black orange and blue smoke  
streaking peaches  
Fuzzy cinderellas in the green sunsets.  
Hey Karl from the ocean, come back out to play.  
Be our Farolito of the fog. Save our souls without a hickey.  
Cradle us with a rock in your morning dew.  
Masks on mouths a new apocalypse,  
Fires all the rage  
in fantastic folly forests.  
With all the tallest reds and woods.  
We already  
paved.  
Paradise  
long gone now  
To put up a parking  
lot that we can't even save.

Military  
Bird shit is the paint of the forest.  
Bird shit is the paint of the sea.  
Guano Guano  
It's off to work we go.  
Eating my sandwich with an enemy.  
Jimmy Jim Beam  
Shit On a Shingle  
Save Our Stomachs  
in Baltimora.  
Bird shit is the life of the forest.  
Bird shit is the life of the sea.  
I think I'll go and join the  
military.

The Patron Saint of Fallen Women  
Only loves you if you can stand.  
Perpetual indulgence in insecurities.  
Drinking all that grape Kool-Aid.  
Not your biggest fan though I used to be.  
Wish you never fell, but I still fall under your spell  
AGAIN.

Deep scars on the corners of my hand  
from that day in Golden Gate when we were friends.  
Wish you well but I won't fall  
for that spell  
AGAIN

Six years were too expensive and  
no one ever came  
Guess I'll have to make and take my own Kool-Aid.

Neon Demon  
He showed me his Neon Demon  
And I rang the Amber Alert.

Universal  
Don't make it so personal  
Make it universal.  
Universal is very very personal so  
Make it universal.

Outdoor Adventure  
To thrive on dying.  
To thrive on highs  
To fly through skies.  
To burn so bright.  
The sharks in caves  
at night.

Lasciami  
Lasciami  
I can't hear what you say.  
Luce Luce  
Vieni da me.

Leave me  
Leave me  
I can't hear what you say  
Light Light  
Come to me

Cigarette  
Life imbued in the inanimate  
I used to wish to be.  
Animated  
in another life.  
Not with a Zoetrope  
Francis Ford's green flat iron  
but inside your smoking hand.  
Taking in the ashes through  
lungs and lips,  
smoke rings  
twirling in the oxygen  
above your head and  
and breezing by you heart  
A place I could never find in this form.  
If lifetimes could repeat  
That is where I'd be.  
But I arrived already alive  
and animated by me.

Drunken Noodle  
Pad Kee Mao  
Fried shit drunk  
You drunken noodle  
Bathed in sauce.



Semi-Precious  
Gemstones  
With shining Sterling Silver.  
Not all that shines is gold.  
When I was born,  
My father was very old.  
Nomadic seas  
Baltic breeze  
He flees.  
Again.  
La Mar.  
He'll pay it back this time next year  
when everything comes back  
once in that rare blue moon.  
Princess Perdita  
William Shakespear  
but she  
is found.  
He'll pay it back again  
in the next decade  
with his refund check  
on judgement day.  
Semi Precious gemstones  
found beneath the ground  
Guanajuato Amethyst.  
Age of the Aquarius  
A pinky ring  
a bulging fist.  
Polish man of war  
and a miner's daughter.  
Baking soda by the line to ease  
the sting of long legs and tentacles  
of Portuguese men of war.  
Semi precious gemstones  
and shining sterling silver  
Not all that shines is gold.  
Queen of la bohème  
Semi precious gemstones  
And shining sterling silver



Shanghai Bobby  
faster than a greyhound  
or a Baltimore Bolt  
The Colts in Indiana and Edgar Allen Poe.  
Colt 45 an Angel number  
Natural and Bohemian  
in your gut a second brain.  
Sometimes called intuition, but it's closed today.  
Will delirium run it's course ?  
Shanghai Bobby  
there's no  
time  
to get back on that horse.

Conservation  
Blast the goats to hell  
On Isabelle.  
Origin of an organism.  
Invasive species we pervade.  
Worlds of war craft  
change the codes.  
Worlds of warcraft we explode.

Radio  
Still wearing her heavy-duty headphones  
at the dining room table.  
A MOSAIC of color and RGBIV.  
Studying for that blessed driving test.  
I wish  
she never passed so fast before  
the blessed driving test.  
Comatose  
with Catatonia but always smiling  
He went  
behind her back.  
7-11 Slurpees  
only cost a couple quarters.  
The radio star still shines  
because her smile was shooting.

Padre Island Texas  
the isolated memories of my father  
as happy as a clam.  
The seagulls are hungry and they eat meat.  
El Paso to Reynosa  
back and forth on a track  
fitted for the king.  
Jackalopes or just infected  
Jacklerabbits full of papilloma.  
The stories serve us better so forget about the truth.  
And sally sells her seashells by the seashore with her cashier's smile.  
Crown of kelp  
Fitted for the King  
Or the Duke of Marlboro Red.  
School Bus by the desert dunes.  
Just be sure to save receipts.  
We'll be on our way, but wait.  
Here comes the school bus.  
What are the odds of this odd situation ?  
what in the name  
what in the name  
of all creation?

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