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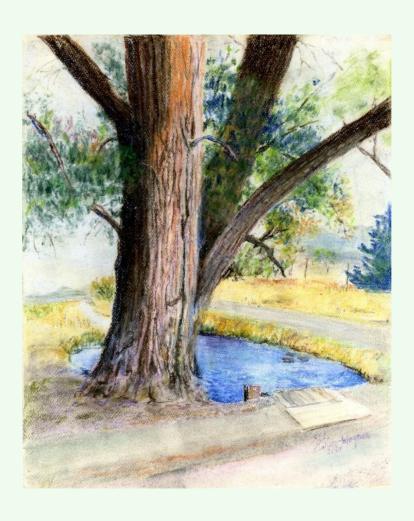
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Prussian Blue

$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$

Paul Cameron Brown



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Not So Much

I evaded capture today with only a handful of dust to escape that Old Sandman Death.

Certainly, those maroon berries,
so large & luscious,
crowded on their fat stems
had something to do with it
as did the ground fog
leaving its burrow as so many boll-weevils
their crowded nests.

And there might be something to the fact
the moonlight sat
fat & confident in the night sky
as surely
as my head rests on this pillow
and the poem invites itself
into my lair of thoughts,
much as nestlings charge the
entrance to the runway
of a tree.

I walked flat out
in an instance
as standing urine
held its own stench
and the grim splash within the pond
dead center in the wilderness
underscores the tone of this warning.

One thought encapsulates wonder though suggestive evil hides leaden leaves buried in lake mud down the corner eaves of someone's fire hydrant mind.

When you pray for someone

an Angel sits on their shoulder, when that same someone hates you does that Angel die of grief?

Serendipity is a flower and those clouds re-arranging the breeze harbingers of forbidden things not so much like these boulders use hand-held scissors to open twilight and watch this fading light ebb forth tip-I-toe like a bird squeezed thru an opening in its cage.

[7]

Serpentine

More fragment of tree
than serpent
clothed in wet
he mirrors me
bedraggled in stone
cloak or so it seems
this cavernous ledge coven.

Is he witch's totem swimming at yard's length

I can web reach him startling darts of rain cutting lagoon's edge this sedge & eel grass dragon.

[8]

Lithuanian Dolls/Consulate Front

These eyes of dolls seem leaden stones not canisters of the Faith but cannon-balls engraved in tome-like stares so much waxen shapes, these dust cloths & spidery webs.

Dolls with eyes stare
lidless & forlorn
such eyes are cracks
minden shapes or basement eves
hogans of the human form.
I'm interested in the priapic
silence of such dolls—their
indolent aura in time
one long amber twilight
& the results are in
the shadows have produced twins
...hazy silhouettes rough-housing
in the dark, come passing headlights
although the stampede of noises
affects nought.

Ticker-tape & collage
in quick thick barrage
these lonesome dolls
slouching half-pinned
in their stalls—
a cat transcends crouching his spine
then pelvic thrusts and tableaux change.

People are divisive, dolls less so. the dolls know nothing of that.

[9]

Begin And Beguile

If brains be gables & minds, say, the shutters in a derelict New England Mansion then intuition is in the eaves & casements the well-springs seeping into turrets & cupolas of all other nether spaces.

These big, wide entrances are ourselves in all their splendor, notwithstanding the Winchester Mansions or Vanderbilt Estates where our very personalities are laid bare see antics give rise to attics feed in onto themselves where the Astor's of our alter-egos are resplendent in rich pride of self longing to manifest in lavish architecture so redolent of wealth yet see-sawing in, squabbling their thread-bare servant quarters where murderous passions bare dingy walls and where stained, yellowing wallpaper is harbinger to further heart-felt quarrels & what is unspeakable, gilded and more.

Manifold and many, recant and lament. Repent.

Fire Bush

If flies be dragons
and they may you know.
In large desiccated brambles
where wasps go
involuntary blue-green coelacanths
these Devil's Darning Needles
wedge in Flying Circuses
frame pale diaphanous wet green sky
as shooting columns
twig and Rock Face.

There, fire-bush entrance scrapes paler wax green fronds then Blue Holes into canopies thru the stars.

[11]

Skootematta

Sheldrake, a magician -the mandrake a mythic plant whose shriek drove listeners wild.... this lake, Sheldrake and its windsong-heartswoon counterpart, Skootematta with Shabomeka & a whiff of Buckshot Lake to boot, waves lapping the prayerful stoneswater's edge the earth's bones.... Lakes an art-form hardscrabble scribble shorthand on a blessed land.

The mysticism of basic shadows, occult shapes of ourselves.

[12]

Animals And The Stars

Crickets are a strange place, cricks of dew hemmed with hoar-frost mushrooming by a door.

The glens are fashions of a loom eerie pads are nightly rooms.

The padlocks remove the key as grass-hoppers keep the meadow free.

A twilight world along the edge at rapier's length this light, this point at end of the void.

[13]

And Then Some

The anger past as a cat arches her back

a thickly rich robust anger blackest coffee in a thick earthen mug this thug & mugger with sufficient silk thread.

Yet the assassin is back
with catcalls & hiss
cortisol adrenalin that
lunge like that cat
rapid-fire along the back garden fence
this patio stroll
my senses black.

And time luxuriating like a thick veil.

That dread pack with anger in the lead —what prevokes it— obviously really a pack of violent running lies—wolves hell-bent running over intent on deceit, thievery, then some.

A narrative with a long reach.

[14]

Woodsy Backwoods Poem

I saw Bear shopping with Santa Claus at the North of 7 Plaza only he wasn't wearing a bib only a cotton-wool imitation synthetic polystyrene white fluffy instead.

I saw the Bear
gracing a wall at the
Old Trout Lake Hotel
(part-time job),
looking self-satisfied,
smug back of the Mosque Lake Road
but a self-starter, no less,
lacking the wherewithal, nonetheless,
to be a serious shit-disturber
accolades & kudos aside, still
circus Work is hard &
good dancing difficult to come by,
poor dish of custard, sticky stuffed bastard.

yet the pay-off begins
when Bear gets home
with only grubs in the bank
and maggots to show
for his life's work, alas,
no fireworks for free
in the big grin as you den,
leaf-off frenzy
witch begins October
month of orange zen
zip up only can ya please.

[15]

Corner Store Fifties Reveille

I met Bear at the 5 n' dime
sipping a Cream Soda
he was voluble &
needed to talk...
"I got a shit-load on my mind,"
mumbling something about some
run-in with a Mountie—tampering
with Crown Evidence, the purloined Honey Jar,
in question, Jimmy Dean was there, too,

polishing his coolness though he would have his own Run-In later in the evening.

As Marilyn had left,
I decided to forgo Bear's company,
still slurping his Soda &
crying into the bubbles,
some things never change.

[16]

Trout Lake Hotel

The walls don't lack sincerity, here, or be accused of "ordinary," what with the bleached remains of a carbon skull, a yellowing pike head of uncertain girth, adder-like fangs positioned like the Bear Head gasping for the night air one wall over or the old pool table that's seen as many games $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$ as ghosts fly by or drinks downed in the penumbra Shooters flaming elixir stars, a shooting gallery of exotica and potent portions crimson Garter, Pink Panties, the men in this lounge live up to that with cigarettes bullying the air, chortles, one doesn't expect to see southern good ole boys in the North Backwoods with no 'gators or Biloxi Blues but a gallows to good intentions, nonetheless.

[17]

Northwoods Poem

Watermelon,
ears of skeleton
wet nose with marshmallow
I saw the Bear leaning on
Santa for a favor.

II

Here's Bear, week's growth of beard,
long bushy eyebrows
still reeking of gin
apparently wanted the penny-strapped Claus'
to dump Rudolph,
spray-paint his coat white
use Bear's fleshy drinker's nose
to lead the sleigh
that crazy night.

III

A tiff erupted
Rudolph almost lost it
santa ended paying Hibernation fees
though Bear grumbled he wasn't
bedding Next to no knot of worms garter snakes.

[18]

Orange Lichens

Orange lichens, in sun-like clusters,
entomb the Rockface wall
a sheer ascent from the waterline
into glassy viscous green—
the plummet from skyward
to lake face
passes breathless squadrons
of Dragon Flies
—devil's Darning Needles

threading the air
where Wolf Spiders
bivouac in web-castles,
thin Draculas to their insect host
each hairy mantle black
with burrow moats at high watermark;
yet unforeseen are the funnel lairs
for bull snakes
each water thrasher
gracing the rotund, behemoth Rock
lunging like a SSpirit Presence up
from this watery chalice.

[19]

Six Owlets

Six owlets sitting in a tree, six cats in effigy, six of both in a boat the leeward lives in Innisfree.

> Six women marching through a park, six lanterns at rest six cauldrons to six walking abreast.

In the still of the morning
 I'd hazard a guess
there's a little less.

[20]

Twillingate

We all end up badly and it's not the season nor the salt rather, I suspect but type of gherkin used.

We all end, badly, at least the more modest of us do. the old salts they dine on limericks anyways.

We all end up, sadly, the distances and the wiles only last up, sideways, and barely with the edge-ways of a smile.

> Some of us, sadly, limit our losses call off the posse quit deals, the quicksilver steals.

Some of us, gladly, surrender or catch a slow boat to Twillingate, if not willingly, at least painstakingly.

[21]

Bravura

Memory as embankment, a mudslide at High Tide with shades up... my avocado green brethren pleasures the soil.

Memory as enchantment a Belle at a Soiree, pureed, Gaston at a Dinner Party. Napanee suggests sympathy, a serendipity... as water winders its way to clay in a moonlight turn of the bottle, I shall find a way. that's ironclad.

[22]

Whisky Girl

I like'em ragged round the rim,
rough drawn at dawn
panting at the edge,
belly-button ring
tattooed naval
drinking silk panties shooters,
not much in between
if you know
What I mean

[23]

High Frequency Draw

(High Alert)

Les bougies sur les tombeaux (The candles on the graves) antilles dread locks ... french chocolate it is not.

[24]

Red Fox

(Red Horse Lake)

A magnificent Red Devil splayed out in his tracks; this tumultuous soul, baron of the backwoods with his provenance unknown ... this compromise to individuality abandons him to chorome death under a canopy-canapé dream-coated rock dome.

Trepanned, empire of trees, dark matter & a castle of leaves, a fish-hawk for a tomahawk in his thermo-cline eyes ... dithyrambic young osprey in the offing, candelabra under stars.

Going inland for freshwater prawns, sandalwood and tortoiseshells finding bewitchment amid moving cars.

[25]

When I was a Much Younger Man

When I was a much younger man, my spiritual homeland was a scrub-mile of bush with thicket leaves the size of your palms.

Saucer-size holes of white air enveloped the edge of trees and the sky was large, an upturned pitcher placed upon its ears...

edge-wise cicadas & June Beetles let out long throbs and the people rounded out lives between the farmhouse & the barn. This ennobled them and they were famously resilient and, in turn, redolent with firmness & the gladness of life.

There was a Drive House, a pig pen, sheds & a chicken coop and, by night, stars became the earlier evening swallows gulping the space Left in the train of the moon. There was no one Empress of the Night anymore than a Prince or Kings towered across the landscape.

Stillness and the largeness of things, predominated, and a hill cascading between the fields & pond held both largess and chaos in nature.

A fence line divided the dynasties, then Regencies across an orchard & what seemed to many an enchanted bridge to the woods.

It was here a boy made his stand.

The language of rock/hillside/lakes & nettle stands like the back of my hand to fill a calendar wall, their musical sounds are brave arias in waves with sonatas first in strength, then pleasure.

This Frontenac Axis as fortress, strong-hold, its booty lichens, moss, legends such as Meyer's Cave, John Meyers murdered for silver,
Mazinaw Rock, the Mugwumps
more water in this Davy Jones locker than all Araby,
this wonder & merriment all strung in a violin string
as webs of beads these lakes
silver cistern,
lovely listening,
this necklace of forest wreath,

placid leaf fingering wide-eyed watershed rich in Massasauga serpents like daggers in that tarn, karst topography lime-stone carapace Painted Turtle hemorrhaging as orange leaves in Sumac troves, copses as sky counts, lakes like the back of my hand ache with the wish I could swim them all, wallow in their own restless energy.

Snapping Turtle Point, a pail of water and a beast three bucket sizes with a yellow underbelly like an alligator, claws, black raven mouth lunging his neck as some gladiator's sword primitive in his ferocity.

Nigh near lacerated my hand, no wish, here, to leave digits there as new Finger Lakes.

Names masculine to the touch and their roundness—Mississageon, Buckshot could pepper a listener or blur in seconds turning effete, Shabomeeka, Sharbot or learn likeness and leisure in the form of the lute, Kashwakemak, sound brittle—Rogue's Hollow, Marlbank, Lime Lake, the Claire River disappearing into a swamp & muskeg where one maps out one's personal Mythology—

Napanee is and as Anthology.

[26]

The End

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