

Residual Lexicon

by MITCH HIGHFILL

after William Everson

Clouds screening pines
Hung down
Wrapped up, pounded chimney grip
Morning sky along
Somnolent sun
Not against heavy scaling
Bitter elderberry singing
Reeds away
Wounded deep again
Beating dark doors rattling leaf pile
Yellow barn distant
Whine groping slow
Smothered feet
Splitting red fog
Blackbirds scramble
For grub fragrance.

Folds lulling jingle
Gleaming window steamy
Seeps numb keeping
Soaked heavy hangs
Chill stove burns
Smoke lumps
Tired drip letting bed
Tap boughs release
All broken handles
Other wings silence muffling pruners
Prisoners move a hundred
Doors stage left
Now sky blurs
Fallow before last mourners
Walk no sound staring

Never waiting until hooted.

Fields lament of sound
Ravens above caw
Wavering slow fences
Over books straggled
Poppies trample roofs
Tilting children
Pick secluded plains
Hold motionless breed
No summer sun
Sweat leaves enough
Still broken bleached
Struggle spent hungry
And scattering convulsions
Water against steel
Hawk familiar
Dawn blasted in straining veins
Break revenge yearning throat.

Roll back headland
Blood where gaunt
Pitching shatters the feel
Sight souvenir
Reason lures grief
Wind dipped bitter
Gloom from dusk
Bone nerves heritage
Given light lightening
Sucks wisp of voice
No driving pine trees rift
Breath thrown over stagnant word
Plaintive crowing here
Length mocking frailness
Drinking crust
Enormous spires fronting sky

Once memory wavers
This wavers.

Source fountain all roaring fog
Weedy blaze behind
Groping pickers snuffling
Withered glimmer knowing
Wrong lust thick
Shoulders hunger drowsy peace for pale
Stripped motion
Nor crows absorb heart
Brain number quickens
Pit meets iron
Cracks earth
Hilt less steel lost a while
Eaten winks once grounded
Slopes west down screaming
Butchered border swarm hidden
Bloom gathers frenzy
Shook outdone fierce
Burnt valleys killing.
Night gasping
Bright eyes gusty
Story drawn clouds
Storms opened token blaze
Humped red furnace
Watchers facing beauty
Retain oneness incomprehension
Flesh transforms absolute
Fields rising western sky rain head
Rivers sprawl
Courthouse wagons upstate
Grass fringe mottled
Roof windows
Squat smell sheer wind
Heard vibrant throated

Crowded nerve years
Disintegration seeks language
Slow hulk spat leaves torch
Tongues smoke heat.

Shining muscles core
Found clean arm loosens
Enormous lens moon swimming
Flame underfoot
Insatiable noon seed needles
Flutter obsession pitiless
Over bruised thighs
Plasmic mind pounds balance
Ocean syllables phrase illusion
Glowers avid dream
Hushed heart pointer
Warm line deadens whining
Chest light yellow
Angles dead wrestlers
Blend flame except truce
Bursts trampling denial
Choking expectation
Something craves filters
Solstice drift feeble darkening
Laughter withdrawn.

This running storm edge
Stumbling under steel
Dusk coldly distrustful
Northern watch beyond
Drab and stunned nerve
Dearly freaked indeterminate
Morning behind eye
Rain working delicate
Touchings vines gaming slow
Curve plunges violently

Drowned star awareness
Fault grace ego scheme
Fingers blind wheeling light
Nor chance another conception
Developed tall peak off mouth hovering
Delicate detachment
Knives whet adoration
Splendor plunges violent.

Sterile wincing drift
Indolent fibers throbbing
Dominance darkens release
Falling and mind cloudless
Paint loose whistling
Having touch sound
Looking remembers tide
Gaunt orchards soak
Human nostalgia
People close signs
Whether loam color walks
Remote horse burdened
Dusk root inscrutable
Throat moving
Root haunts beams
Opened ugly sprouts
Repression no crossroads
Nothing rooms no suffering
No generation no odes
No brick no chalk no heap no surge
No hushed suspension no cheek.

No wildest swells restless
Takes voluptuous floats sun
No light no sound no
Screened ruts confusion
Dwindling somber wavering

Loaded green flood lifts
Worshipping shape no gale
Sheep huddle or walk swings
Thunder dragging the stuffing
Of sagittary leather
Beneath no hair no surge leaking
Currents nerves poised waves
Dying cottonwood downwind
Spike weed crows throat
Edging thigh bone
Autumn going smells sleep
Husks of flowers
Stand focused before corners
Shut darkness help
Armor trusting smell
Only consummate lips
Caught clean
War is perfect shovel.

Machine wrapped biceps
Stance attained
Postures remote and bending
Pictures remark withering
Horizon stretched
Inundation falling cities
Face breathing westward
Prejudice seeking narrow
Seeking fog seeking sameness
Broke and deadened somewhere
Hanging oppressive
Heavy repeated constraint
Dusk running
In single file
Cold flashes smoke
Visible under crashing
Mind breeds bitter talons

Rare plunder westering
Cleared evenings sap ancient
Recurrence immense birds beckon
Longer vision coupling reason
Thrown resentment.

Perpetual silence
Abstract hearts transition
Fool grinding change for edge
Caught seeping turn level
Flood slopes strongest
Salt moment tolerant
Rival knowing season
Drowns syllables taut music
Weight loss taken mute
Gust broken hammers
Cramped stammer
Drive outside wave straining
Steep five slipping
Atom suffered verse
Gathering sleepers pages
Smothered function taste
South faces mysterious jingles
Bulk pouring beam
Like wrong street
Charged coils tremble
Shift mountains sunrise brimming
Scythe stretches haze
Over thunder arches upper
Splendor fringe wanes forever.

Remote seaward draining
Suck ridges timber channels
Arctic shores midnight over
Light hangs bare colors
Tremble massive edge

Compulsion scant fulfillment
Tipped pressures furious ground
Emptied mouths clench
Topping sunken bulk
Shy random eyes
Currents pulsing streams formed
Behind torrent waveless
Sources strike presence
Music needs veil sleeps equinox
Wind open ruin perceiving disaster
Pinch deadly wide month
Blown east burnt down
Gazers gaunt ridges
Shattered spell rhythm.

Existence fashioned wind level
Anguish breaks solstice error
Blunt utterance
Surge of shape
Of gust of alive of roots of
Quickening of passion of spoken
Of vineyard of height loosening
Lie slope of grain
Of hands of immaculate running
Ritual suddenly vivid
Of length house best
golden falling expanse
Of arctic whirlers
Thigh turning some waves
Poised of depth of vision
Of mood inclement granite
Alive of drums or dancers
Gather pivoting thighs
Sleep of hundreds of intervals
Of cold spring of future
Altered grooves of subtle links

Altered sun coming harder
Throats hence formed to sound.

Splendor boards recede
Feeling full of illusion
Bleeding roadside
Begging welter impregnable
Textures evince you
Folded fortune loudness
Frozen wagons
Grasp thin sticks fever
Shining lozenge
Roared squadrons futile
Affirmation reefer arrows
Blow poems spring taste
Motive theme hungry
Anchor taunted husks lost
Empty fury
Stammering furious doors
Shaping beauty
Controlled rot holes blew
Need to hunch crusts
Live fat shadow
Cold comfort constellations
Blaze nothing breeds.

Paper shook hedges
Belief rifts listening
Beyond substance fiber
Sheath lifted marrow
Vision whatever cheated
Cheated wants folded hunching
Facet seclusion staring
Twist means orbit
Arteries hammer
Reaches laugh never face

Never stove crouched
Hunters brag self high winds
Devotion roof cradle desperation
Whithered rubber symbolized
Panting ribbon ants
Stampede torsos plasm
Breath caves dusk beyond
Leaning felt no abstract
Border birds quaking isolated
Not knowledge.

Odor temper looms
Earth sucking last inchoate
Tidal dupes give scalded fists
Staggering inordinate dazzle
Shivers ripple blooms
Each function roots survival
Shaves brain marks squat paper
Better books flinch
Not you
Not last fever order
Focus broader go with throwing
Studded curve moisture
Smothers time loosens more world
Shells weather summon horns
Rain low scud paunch
Walking under swollen
Silk haste waving urgent
Money plateaus shoreless
Edges corroded skull
Gravel obscure flux pulp.

Thinning dissolution scatters
Stubborn salt famished
Nuzzling speechlessness
Luminous sigh baffles

Disembodied remnants
Pulsing speech huddles
Grinding heels
Clog stutter sloping
Abstraction glued to ignorance
Hush clock recall
No stammer ditch breed
Swollen focus.
Perpetual silence trembles.