

A Simple

by Josephine Mishka, consequent to "Buddha Box" interview with Alice Rose [from *The Feralist Papers* or *A Tonalsit Manifesto*, a novel in progress, by Laura Moriarty and Standard Schaefer]

Concoction
Or name
Of one
Unprepared

Green first
Later dark
Dead yet
Flowering

More to possess
Instead of less
More thought
More life

A head
Alive with
A dose or
Cordial

Suspended when
The solution is the problem
Compressed weathered
Worried dried

Cut tried
Not in that order
The same line
Is more

Fragrant
Moxified as in
Burned and
Forgotten

Some wild
Thing grew
For you
In me
Then

Because the substance at the center of our ritual doesn't work we have to plan carefully. The morning is gray. The horizon blue. Do you see images when you read? Painters when you look? Musicians when

you listen? *Popol Vul* appears. Is appropriation appropriate? you ask. Come over here, you say. Bring the book. Thinking along with the song, you nod. I go back and forth. We belong to the same inner club. More addicted than faithful. Often stunned or stained by the sap of the experimental monster we call Our Love. Part plant, part man not unlike *The Thing* but he is Our Thing. Our Love is malevolent and strong. We are someone else to him. Even dogs. He kills the dogs, then is a dog. He is everyone. Is you. Me.

Laughing she
Can see
Sounds like rain
Extend
Over everything
We know that
She has to look
Changes the book

We text the world. Dawn comes up. There are mountains. We are not different from them. There is blood and sap. We hear birds and plants. What is going on? we say, not giving up. Things are familiar. Concocted. Tonic. We find defeat. We find transformation. We try again. We synthesize. Simple. Meaning. Time. The solution or amalgam. One ingredient. Soak and dissolve.

Felon Herb
Old Uncle Henry
Potion notion

I know him
All afternoon
Wormwood
Winter

Chernobyl or
Place where
Mugwort grows
Disturbed

Root cup
Clove nut
Or mug
Thwort

In the same valley
And only in this
Valley or saint

John's plant or plate
Goose as in Mother
Or hedge rider

Part poison
Part
Flown
Unless you have

A cauldron
Called a head
Still being
Known

Dermal
Absorption
Simple
Or in spring said

What you do
I know