

## Wilderness House Literary Review 18/4

*Karen Klein*

### **Canes**

some come out easily  
these remnants of last year's blossoming  
crop

others refuse to release.  
tugging just tears the plant  
apart

some respond to a light tug  
releasing only a few stalks  
while retaining others

last year's Lobelia hung  
stubbornly on to its canes  
this year

whitened stalks litter  
the new leaves voluntarily  
letting go

one day Horsemint wouldn't  
give them up        next day they released  
at a touch

Autumn Joy's hang on  
pulling last year's out destroys  
the plant's center

I'm not like Lobelia  
or Horsemint   more like  
Autumn Joy

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letting go of my last year's blooms  
deeply destabilizing  
now, moreover, in my life's Autumn

the next woody stick  
might just be the one I use  
for walking

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### Scroll

speaking  
aloud  
jaw drops  
tongues touch teeth  
lips close  
tha na tos  
I swallow death

I don't want to  
die  
at least  
not  
yet

I want to be  
minimal  
not  
doing  
five  
things  
everyday  
worrying  
why  
not  
six

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I need to  
create  
space  
within  
dependent  
not  
on eyes  
but  
on skin

withdraw  
draw  
a place  
where  
outdoors  
lives  
indoors

forehead warmth  
from sun  
stillness  
absolute  
as dawn

neck naked  
of hair  
from air

fingertips  
graze  
forearm  
keyboard  
music

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### **Crazy Jane Speaks of Sex**

*apologies to Yeats for using his character*

sex is not  
an abstraction  
but an activity  
brutal  
too brutal  
not brutal enough  
gentle  
way way too gentle  
regular  
ordinary  
oh, you again  
endless foreplay  
hurry up please it's time  
languid  
energetic  
flaccid  
I'm just not into you  
sorry dear  
I've a headache  
hello  
nice meeting you  
have we met  
goodbye  
don't leave me  
leave me alone  
endless variations  
permutations  
limited by your  
wickedly inventive  
linguistic  
imagination

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*Footnote*

I don't care  
if you hate me  
love me  
are indifferent  
just fuck me  
so I can  
get to sleep

