

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/3

Ryan Quinn Flanagan
Seedless Revolution

An orange truck dropped its load in the street
and children ran off
with as many as they could.
Women who had been sweeping nearby stoops
used the base of their shirts
as makeshift baskets
to collect as many as they could
in a single trip.
A few children began throwing the oranges
at each other
but most just gathered them
and ran away.
The driver of the truck
tried to fend them off with a stick
but soon tired of the futile enterprise
and got back in his truck
and drove away.

And the people cheered in such a way
that eyes grew tearful
and it made you want to hug the person
next to you
without knowing why.

To kiss the faces you could get lost in.
Those same waving hands
and blazing unreasoned faces
that you see in black and white

welcoming the tanks
and uniforms
to Havana.

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/3

I hung a large Cuban flag in the window
a few days later,
but by then the oranges were forgotten
and everyone
had moved on.

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English Lit.

Orwell said he saw things
in 1984
and Milton claimed it was better to reign
in times long before.

A search party was sent out
for Wordsworth
in the countryside
as Coleridge guarded the opium dens
and Keats wrote odes to Rimbaud
who retired at nineteen
and began his life as a gun profiteer
and slaver.

Eliot wrote of wastelands
he could not see from the balconies of Bloomsbury
while Lorca sucked cock
between sonnets
and Hemingway fed his six toed cats
fresh Atlantic marlin.

Faulkner wrote with a compass that only denoted South
and Poe expressed only pain and horror
as Pound was dragged through the streets
in a wooden cage
while Byron fought for the Greeks he wanted to see
and Shelley thought his way out of higher learning.
Joyce watched prostitutes ply their trade
in the first person
and Huxley wrote of every other person

while Gertrude Stein ran an academy
for eunuchs
where Fitzgerald drank too much
and Paul Bowles was attacked
by the family dog.