

Wilderness House Literary Review 9/4

Clay Ventre

With Pineapples in Her Head

she walked in
legs crying a whisper
demanding the inventor
of the sun reveal himself
she'll know it
(by God) that God who
took a banjo to the moon
debased it to barren rock
dressed it in stupid
and handed it over
to somedumb poets

she announced her intention
to be spectacular in our sight
to take all cakes
and eat them too

and it was spectacular
and all the cafe's
in all the world
shaking with fever
and bells dangling-dumb in churchtops
hung up their rung on a nail
and quit thenandthere

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¿and here?
all anyone could think to do
was jazz some music
— some saxophonista
might make'er bend
'cause walkingby she made
things
fall off other
 things
even the wallpaper
gave up the fight
and let go the wall
and sighed to the floor

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The Losers

we lost to the rain
the rain lost to the sun
the sun lost to the moon
we are shot-though
pleasure-unhinged
impossible crab-like things

we-drunk
we-firetrucks at the opera
gin-soaked gun-toters
leaning at the step
Gomorrah-bound beasts

— ¿is we lucky?

the world will flood-up under us
we'll lose
we'll drown
they'll call us heroes but
we were only winged-things
at the best of times
with no place to land

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the return of some matador

some brace of machismo machine

you see,

the matador/toreador/son of no father

started as a tiny cosmonaut

 upsidedown

 floating

in the womb of the matador-mother

mother who she was destined

to climb up and into being

her own mountain

her legs under-dusty-dress

clanged

her fists tenderized the meat of

some blight of crop that left her

 longing

something other than

some litany of incessant-

 village-clamoring-

 something-about

 government –etc.

some medieval man

some false mustachioed laugh

 at an actually-funny thing

some palsied reckoning

some genius plan of bad ideas

some orbiting thing

 that won't leave her alone

 even when she closes her eyes

she held it all together only ever before

he entered the ring for the first time

and shifted the color spectrum

of the sun