

Jennifer K. Dick

Above Board

1

“so much tied to fiction”
she says, “il mare” boats
cast out castoff like lies
or what is stored
seared into her body (lines)
memorial layers of ink
sanded stone graphite
granite the granular
instincts ground
into pigment

DA, 45

2

instantaneous coincidence of castaways
neuroses (hers) residue
(mine) (I) gesticulate
pontificate profligate
proper pronunciations for
promulgations of equinoctial
offerings dried offing
day drawn paler
closer till or teller-tick
down to
failed geometrists’
theoretical musings on
divided chaos

clipped wings rudder-
rudimentary spectacles
“the one true the one only
truer” she was saying
whispering into
my ear

3

gullibility gramophones greed
like fallibility:
what is (not) found in dictionaries
deconstructed speculations
gambits of gamers
throwaway rugs cast into lost
luggage proprietary claims on
the once-ambitious
now tried hinge to
open sea
totalitarian escapades
brine briars burning
acceptance or
agonizing

4

henchwoman adventurer (she is)
fond of spectroscopic analysis
of stilted stipulations
hazy-havoc bucolic brooding
a feather a scale scalpels
removes (her) (me)
in the stammering stamen
well wrought-out wintered
wrangling tugboat or torpedo
titillating transistor trails
spurious or stalwart
on the off-chance
unlatched momentary cultivation
of somnolence
curtailing cornered cowering:
a registry of breakage

fog stern catatonic cartwheels
pierce portraiture documenta
brash broadsworded strokes
slash through her levity
star-board stasis
proximal promontory
lectern for languorous longterm locutions
lode-stone or star statement
speck or a spot of
on to “encounter”
to slake
to stalk
to stifle—her honing device’s
recorded dictates
labyrinthine tracts of her
short-hand stenographer’s notes
crumpled underboard
stories’ fable-vines, cable-fictions
cartoon bracken coating the hold-all
containing the key
to divine or divinity in the
perishable ledger

Salvor

1

ruinic calendars
lethargic figures
figure her and here and
her and hear and
the ground / strike
hoist drop sail (I)
masticate dried beef
baking on sunned-steel decks
joint-groan, resistance relegated
to normative fluctuations
(fear not fare-thee-well)
still aloft adrift afloat still
confidence in that which holds
marble alabaster limestone
greyed out
shadow-whitened
the paling dawn of
backdrafts chests hoisted
over borders
 to save
salvage
 dredge depths
and deeper still where
she is
secreted

2

parasitical(thetical) announcement
of obliterated angles
cabin walls, steerage, wheelhouse
half-hull washed out
maw-gaping
sea-guffaw
cratered-keel cracked
bubble-broiling on the ledge
they crossed the wire over

mast-catch spire-caught-cable
labelled “puncture danger”
netted
at a depth of 300ft
50 miles offshore
coasted over
to haul up
surfaceside
within the submersible
dreamscapes
hopes gilded
not-gold
treasure

3

what is “verboten” “verwinden”
“wie ghet’s” to codified
electrolytes? re-topped up
whale-blubber
a bbls measure she matures
diagonal valence / variations of
vernacular eddy abandon
populate the depopulated outskirts
between tribal warfare
to arm and disown
relegate political constitutions to
minimal collections of fractured
factions: the fissures
unremarked-upon veinosity
scaling the hull
waiting out / for
the maelstrom

4

loquacious luxury of the bespoken
or better-spoken for
foil fold fulcrum
to foist hoist into
forward-momentum
anti-wave or matter

the darkening as in
eclipsed
macular degeneration
daily propellers direction-shift
too far out at sea to
back, barnacle brittle-breakage
into
so that the leak / ridgeline's
drop-off among uncharted depths
strand to string to sensorial
pulse of useless rendering
scuttled
undertow-over:
rose and rise and risen
whitecap to swell
readied messages
expire

5

maintained clear articulation
of thermoelectric urgency: sonar
sensations / accumulations
as if the water columns magnetized
calling forth ruination
wreck-rocked to rock-wrecked
punctured carapace
taking on water's
translucent reconfiguration
coasting past-guard
heave-command-upraise-saviors
semblance: a trap
traipsed over
alongside

6

half-oracular
respite, cryptic "Mayday!
Mayday!" call-
out girder-bashed
bracing swill of salt

railwrath weather-woven
humbled
a life, quartered,
till-tethered
filaments splinter
betwixt aftermath's
moratorium

7

traipsed along tripwire
ripcord rigging-release
pulled forth / banked
ashore / aligned with
personal particularities
from each held stone's
desire hand-held honed
laddered release-relief
as in crags
angular juttings
buttresses
double-edged phrases
coins silk brocade trinkets
concealed in (her) (my)
body
drag-netted to ground
inhale
inhale
inhaled
in to
the golden
air

Oculus

1

state of
slate or slathered atop
reconvening around the
inconvenient(consistent) ex-
changes median or mediator
hoarse whispered
“willkommen”s protectorate of
muttered anthems muted
cases verses vociferous vocabularies
like vestibules entered with
temerity one by one
to lean against the
onslaught of consonants
in measured tones
of one’s own nomenclature un / other
likenesses
taxonomy locution codification
census
rates of adhesion
or accretion
slippage

2

species—spices
block binge barnacles
blunder providential anonymity
barrack’s thunderstruck alight /
unlike luminescence in
liminal frameworks the
floating adepts
likened to transepts
mortgaged interchange
budgets bypasses the bumper
stickers of hallowed
hollowed-out hope
cored

wormed rotted
registrar of
infrastructure's intravenous
demise slotted for /
ward

3

noble meadow outlet
excessive peregrinations
consternation / complication
to troubleshoot-reboot
CTL+ ALT + Z+
the algorithmic calculation
of improbable returns
1 day's dream = night
frost hail stones
along the vaulted key
to rosary or rose
windows lead panes
a crackling
as if again such decanted
talks / fables / fractaled
morals had been left
ajar—as / if
the message is
re / de / undeterminably
coded

4

codex hibernal transgressions
among backlogs of indexed
precognitory functions : n⁺
the parsed frugal punctuality
of articles and pronouns
verbal denotations of concomitant
binary proclivity
to / to not
forthwith or forebear
syllables clattering against

floorboards / teeth
insects parasites knots
among the less
hermetic
outliers

5

to reconvene
to chasten / hasten / hobble
to razor-refine, recapitulate
to detonate diametrically as in
to not corrode
forced vector's courses
opposed prepositions
the preposterousness in / of our
infinite statedom
(sanctum / kingdom)
To fold curse invigilate
conquistadorial transmigrations
to purport support beams' melting point
temperatures at maximum capacity for
averted disasters: mean
or a means of
negotiation = average half-life
of a halogen / hologram
to save on (stave off)
tragedy
city sites, phosphorescence
rates of transposition viewed
from mars,
to propel propagate potentiate
to obfuscate
officiate
plunge a bath of nouns into fire
boiled cauldron conspiring encapsulation
to retrieve all of the lost
messages in forgotten languages
each straightforward stratagem
a maxim or axiom
expire (respire) inspire
thwarted history