

At Death We Forage

by Quin de la Mer

A found poem from
Herzog, Werner. *Of Walking in Ice: Munich-Paris, 23 November-14 December 1974*.
University of Minnesota Press, 2015.

At [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] death
I took [redacted] a compass
[redacted] a duffel bag [redacted]
My boots [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
I came on foot [redacted]
Alone [redacted] myself [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] strangely [redacted]
[redacted] desire [redacted]
[redacted] outweighs [redacted] dread [redacted]
the door [redacted]
[redacted] omitted

[redacted]
[redacted] my first stop [redacted]
[redacted] I [redacted]
[redacted] jumped [redacted]
without [redacted] hurt [redacted]
[redacted]
tried again [redacted]

with bridges
tiny
upside down
Smashed-up

in rhyme
now

My steps firm
earth trembles
I move
a mountain reposes

rain-sodden
mud
rages

a bit further
Maps center
On
transit station
dry paper
swirling
a long time
the train gone

I feel
bent
into
paper

my heart
ripped apart

Imagination
mothers their
children

One
very new
Slice

an overpass
beneath me

I am
heading down
a
barricade between
some string
shouting, "Detour!"

real
doesn't worry me

slowly
absolutely
With glee I express
all of a sudden
without
being there

from my

burning
soles

my mind was
hanging from a yoke

the snow

collided with

a wild animal

a huge
mountain

tired

blind

hovering

The lights

will soon be gone

incredibly sad

Stillness

the cold

moved

flying east

behind

fields

forests

fear

ringing

I am
between the
rattling past

the horizon

a denial building inside me

Don't look

No, don't!

those ravens!

A glove
soaking wet
lying in
tracks

moving
in synchronized motion

unharvested
monstrous and threatening

Hoping to run

I stand firm

support

I hear

a forest

The transparent moon
Halfway toward

the Dark

I am standing
black orange
determined
the arrow
inert
The region
infested
soundless
above me

Onward

rotting leaves
hearts painted
a monster
I know will attack me

silently
souls
pass by me
ashen
white
blank
empty

so hot
my blood
invites
No One to Nothing

reaching

I broke into
praying
the bottomless pit
open
dark
black birds
swarm

I am inside
candles burning
red wax
wine?
rest
a place
beyond
here

Fog
icy cold
membrane
my steps hollow
hanging
bitterly

A host
accompanies me

I've lost my way

Mythical

mist

emerges

anchored
along the River

at the edge

the entrance to

madness

within a red streetlight

a loudspeaker

rises

all dreary, cold, void

The journey is

miles across

The land bleak frozen

far away

the sand

unreal to me

a shelter
Up above
was enough
Outside
it is
grey

a shrine
with
a sunrise
requires
care

fire
colored
a wall

the River
noticed this

a detour
in the bank
I have no map

sitting there
wrapped in
thoughts
loneliness filled my breast

Blackness

crept forth

my reflection below me

unexpectedly

rough

I take

The shortcut

the road

wide

foreign

following my instincts

I crept past

a cave

behind howled

the sea

its mouth wide open

rivers

converging

a sudden

otherworldly

whining

From

the slopes

where

thunder

was rumbling

mysterious

shrieks

no one can hear

shrouded in clouds

they scatter

days passing

at the
edges of the universe

wandering

moving forward

night falls

a different face

was I born?

Eternity draws nigh

I was
still human

drowned

wings

left uncrushed

no longer sharp

forsaken

further on

the

wind

stalks

a house

majestically

swinging and swaying

then
borne aloft
Staring into
a procession
I recognized
gestures
advancing
all at once
everywhere
vast black deathly
the pit
filled
in flattened down

ice on
walls
loneliness has come
a crossroads

a
train station
full of woe

I
shake
frightened

higher up
road signs
a landmark
turbulent
winds

a solitary tree
exposed
completely horizontal

uphill
Downhill
forward

I
don't stop
don't look

my heart
still beating
it's ticking
it hurts
sharp
burn
scattered over
comfort

the post office
an inn
a
telephone booth

it
plagued me
paralyzed
people
disfigured
joined
systematically
one
to the next

the road below
Resolution:
the footpath
clearly visible
directly
over the heights
past
Creation

ashamed

things improve

my shadow
covered
around
me

scattered
between
strange sounds
It ignored me
I
grabbed it
but
something
falls
lies
forgotten
I feel it
Felled

order
along the chain
without warning
my route
led me
to
another
imaginary line
past
wet snow
the road beyond
shortening
to

slip away

In darkness

I
grew trustful

the truth
depressing

dampness
hovers

vaporous
clouds

dripping

empty forms

going on

A
lantern
sways

directions
come

at the border

I can see
my way through

the sky
orangey-yellow
foggy-grey

black

a red
crater

in red water

a ghostly fire

the end
glowing

fathomless space
the universe

Unimaginable

worlds

a single point

blackness like light

silence like thunder

Nothing
is the
Yawning Void

Un-stars

flash

below me

all dead

Rankness
gathers
at the sea

finding
the night
I lost the compass

waiting
for
the ferry

a crossing
meant to
digest
the
Thirst
myself
my mind

shrieking crows
along the horizon
the plain below
deserted
my resting place
empty

the final stretch
gave me
branches

no pains
beyond fatigue

I have a feeling
I might walk the River

Settling for years

The water
has the
idea

Only he who walks
Across

between
serpentine traces

sorrow gnawing

opening
from inside

burning
like
fire of frost

creates
thought

Lights
flickering

signal

the end of
the same thing

between sun and moon

smoke rises

the backbone
at the edge of
harmony

floating
beehives
beautiful
tangerines

blue
grass

This
world

trails above me

Sighing

my shadow
far in front

runs nonsensically

the path ends

deathly
direction is

around me

the map

an empty

road

a lighthouse

barely believable

two between roads

I love more already

protected from my mind

I shelter possibilities and enter sleep

I an outlaw tired drained of sense surely the glow outside coming

drunk on loneliness

I howl

mysterious artificial alive?

a bit further
I shelter
in lingering gloom
railway tracks
drawn around me
hardly help

I pretend
to laugh
A rainbow
fills me with
confidence

a stairway
had been open
I went
which caused
anxiety
inviting at first
the
feeling dwindled
the hole
getting bigger
despair
alarmingly inflamed

I stood
in line
waiting
to pass

the ground
the same place
ends here
uninhabited
spacious
it doesn't matter

confused
expressions
on the faces of
people freed
of everything

warming up
instantly intense
an exhibition of
lonely forsaken
others
were stopping
with a single jerk
standing lopsided
pointing skyward
giving a look of
incomprehension

sizzling soles

I retreated to
one end

the edge

the long march

the red-hot core
the earth's interior

loneliness

can leave a person blind

Not this again!

losing every
battle?

I set out
demoralized

merciless

desolation

sadness
lasting-forever

I went on

the
abandoned place

devoid of

order

intact, but

dead ships

motionless

creatures

white

peacocks

screeching

I hear

furious fighting

I

Drift falling forward

the River

beside me

the old railway

below

mist hovers

red berries on

the threshold

beyond the door

overgrown with

algae

I breathe

standing

by

an unknown

king

buried

within

the background

is

haze

the river

touched me

summoned forth

once again

carelessly

I

cross

the bridge

being watched

Death walking

shrouded

in semi-darkness

a

wedding

cried down

then

lapsed back

already

the earthworms

underneath

deep

hills

are my companions

ahead I
follow him

Droplets bluish-black
growing in the endless
echoes
in the interior

come along
the River
is dying away

from afar
I
imagine
human loneliness

In the
stillness
a haunting
grabbed me

alone
abandoned
the whole earth
beginning to move

Then the mountainside
hissed

where
was
I
across
the river
I
died

the situation
dissolves
I'm indifferent

along the rim
he
followed me
I looked back
he
behind me
whenever I looked
he vanished

at last
I saw
a field
in the distant mist

birds rising

from the womb

where gravity is

The road

endless

impossible

to hide

since

death

sits

enclosed by a

fence

Truth

wanders through

a joyful feeling

boiling

up to the sky

won't revive a soul

This stretch

straight

uphill

far away

the rainbow
Beyond
time
without
wonder

a
brief
relationship

Suddenly
a horseman
moved
closer
uncertain

In the obscurity
I
crept around it

giants
stormed
fiercely

The region
interspersed with
huge
swampy
soil

I
find refuge

halfway protected

I grapple
from cover to cover

senselessness

enormous

Infernal

swept over me

I could swim

Why not

?

swim the distance

I hesitated
finally creeping over
the gate

an entrance

quite large

to drift
at the edge
became uncomfortable

I wandered
for miles

The will to end
this
makes it
a little better

a thousand years
empty over me

the background
passes through
without explanation

the water above
has no
connections

I reached
the edge
so tired
I had no
consciousness left

on a beach
my gaze strayed
powerful waves
to end
the breath of danger

I
pushed
a thought
through my head
and smiled
delicately

I was alone on foot

unprotected

understood for one
moment

onward I fly