

Lea Littlewolfe / THREE POEMS

Rosetown to Swift Current in July

In this year of rains freerange cattle feast on multigreen hay
Puffy lines of caragana border ranch spreads
Quonset steel conceals farming machines
Red and white webbed towers broadcast
Rare decades old windmill pylons whine
Willow clusters recall duck nesting potholes
On gentle slopes cattle dots graze on
ground hugging prairie wool grasses
Wind always the wind sweeps sagebrush studded range
Pronghorn antelope roadkill bloats in sun

Steel grid of wired together power sticks
Along railroad tracks cement pillars of inland terminal elevators
Beside the highway odd triangles of corn-leaf-hued peas
Parasol topped round metal granaries crowd
tumbled down grayed abandoned farmhouses
Agricultural chemicals haze veils over beige gullied low hills
Brown tassled brome and angel hair foxglove billow in western wind
Poplar, elm, maple shade small town streets and graveyards
Yellow green spiky wheat and blue-blue-green alfalfa rectangles
Townships away white early ripening oats form
ragged patchwork of incomplete edges

Decent green grass fades to verdant squares
sun washed tan to the horizon

Belts of pale straw stubble contrast with
spectrum tortured red-brown chemical de-herbed fallow
Dabs of crouching caragana sprinkle yellow canola
Occasional flat topped pyramids of gravel wait
Light undersides of poplar leaves flatten together in
tapestry of browns, greys, yellows, greens
Cattle feed miles away from rustler-carrying highway

High sheeps wool cirrus blankets pale blue sky
Monster hay bales rest fresh green
Symphony of honey smells rise from highway lip:
yellow sweet clover, purple alfalfa, ageing brown brome,
escaped butter yellow rapeseed
Dead porcupines are surprise car target
Motley traffic of paved two-laner jangles against calm prairie
Violet and orange stain alkali flats damp in their middles
Community pasture stretches to hilled smoky edge

Vast bleached green shortgrass rolls north and south
Uniform mat wheat bends in unison
Unnatural boundaries denote human ambition over old bison
pasture
Of a sudden ammonia manure of factory pig production
odorizes my wide-open-windows air conditioning
Late afternoon cumulus spot-shades blown landscape

Aged Lover

lazy rasp respiration
to avoid touching me
you steal the thin quilt
wrap your greedy bulk
round and round
like Cleopatra wrapped in a rug
for Caesar's unwrapping
unrolling into Rome's sidedish history

I want
to touch your wrinkles
sidetrack your grumbly
leave-me-alone-I-don't-wanna-do-it
crumbly aside
sex hour become hex hour
I'll shrivel it reduce it
to elimination function only
I'll unpleasure it
put sweat of toad into
your oldman porridge
on 22nd Street any teen you meet
will find atrophied scrotum and
zero action

Museum

plaster bared breast
Greek penis petite in plastic resin
mottled Manitoba marble embeds primordial mollusk
marching Spartan clings to thin styrofoam
— *and you think I welcome midnight fist*
if I touch your sleeping skin?

copper green coin of millennia
crisp Taj Mahal toy model
Hammurabi's code a mere ribbon on timeline
tiny Eiffel Tower backdrops
the memory of rock collection in *Le Louvre*
— *and perchance as you rage I die*
will you raise a mausoleum to awe the ages?

tipi diorama with willow backrest and stone firepit
video touch screen before lightbulb fake fire
bucksquinned elder knaps flint into museum arrowhead
obsidian shards for viewing only
— *lover, beware my stone hammer*
a solution from antiquity beneath my artefact foam pillow