

from *The Stork Rides Shotgun:* *statistically significant poems*

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CIRCUMSTANCES

a statistically significant biofiction

this was when.

the dolphins went back to sea
the women were joined by their men

modernity consisted of integral leafy exurban bliss
love = marriage elevated the stakes

the Fuck sisters turned a prank into an international career
you slept with two men in one day, neither of whom was your husband

the lion was hypnotized by her future
the earth started listening to what she could leave out

we realized planetary dalliances only appear permanent
the mountains were removed from their places

you lived next to the last Blockbuster
the grass grew homesick

we replaced the ocean with beautiful things of our own invention
God entered the world as a vehicle of light, too hot to handle

people became trivial
no one was surprised

this was before.

beauty was the most important thing
you knew love was dumb. as a muscle

the dolphins had their own legends
irrigation returned as history

corn was the fuel for the way things happen
we stole cervix cells without permission

the polar bear swam in an empty ocean
someone built his dream house in front of yours

JUICE IT UP served real, flash-frozen California fruit
Robespierre sent lace-makers to the guillotine for practicing
a frivolous craft

the forest grew into a mountain
we got the habit of hell into our syntax

the military plagiarized nature
the dreamer of tigers was deprived of his sleep

strange verb tenses were enacted — *will have had to have been / will have had*
to yet occur...
we called it “our earth, our dead”

this was the only time.

death was the mother of beauty
there was an angel to wrestle

we treated live bears with the same care as manufactured ones
Truman Capote initialed the husband's cock in eyebrow pencil

we came to our senses in literal as well as figurative ways
the heroine did not compromise

we owned what, owned whom
sirens sang songs people followed to the other side of life

the stars aligned with the stories we told about them: harvest maiden, man in
the coils of a snake, great underwater panther, dolphins leaping
from the ocean of the Milky Way
obsession was its own end point

the body & the mind went safely together in the world
god was alone with his questions

the hero saved his victims
you were freed from the past and of the future

the seasons stayed in place
extinction looked like regular dying

FEAT.

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