

Elizabeth Hay / WRITINGS

TWO INSECTS

two insects

a woman lies on top of a man

dragonflies

blue

abundant

everywhere among the weeds

clinging to our shirts five or six at a time

blue lines with wings blue shadows

flitting

erotic thoughts

dragonfly tips

glue lightly two together

brief

all the aberrations off one plant ivy

curly straightleafed

aberrations off one bed long

fluctuations of tension

pleasure

offspring muted monsters

dwarfs

on my shoulder

dragonflies

blue

luminous

among weeds

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YELLOWKNIFE SUITE

we were looking for ravens

and walked in a valley
slight incline between rock
birch and poplar yellow
bronze

(they often
ride the updraft on one side of the rock)

the earth smells strong
reaches up

tipped by leaves
the expected presence of fruit
pears apples the same
colour as the leaves

graves are on the slight hill
fenced in with wooden weathered fences
weathered fallen wood
wild roses
aren't in flower
their leaves are red

the ground stained
violent

ravens are stains absorbed
seasons absorbed
all year round ravens shade the ground

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her fingers hold onto the edge of the boat
her body in water
the first joints are cut off
then the next
finally she gives way to darkness
sinks down
into August

light
turns to ravens
 under water
 they tug at her heels
 her wrists float beside her white

fish
strip flesh off her bones
they make evening
they make her a moon
a mound of shining bones
 shining

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said of coffee
black

of earth

without cream
ravens

sugar is possible
(whatever dissolves)

light
stirred in disappears without regret
certain things desire eventual black

others bump against me
into my legs
hard nailed boxes
unreceptive to the pull

others dissolve more slowly
on the shore
shells and bits of dishes
the cup and saucer

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snow comes out of the walls

and falls

inside the house

lamps and tables become a woods

walk in this light

new

white

dust

covers us in sleep

all but the ovals our heads leave

pillows have ovals where heads lay

a quiet revenge

against looking out at the world as separate

it comes in

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