

The Principle Agent

poems

Sarah Suzor



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The line “So do I love her when loose from it” used in poems “In Addition To” and “*The experts have asked I come back more an island.*” is from Canto 2 of Dante’s *Purgatorio*.

The definitions in “Consume (one)” and “Consume (two)” were taken from: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/consume>

for Paul Vangelisti

Having only the force
of days.

—George Oppen

She smooths her hair with automatic hand,
and puts a record on the gramophone.

—T.S. Eliot, *The Wasteland*

There are people who come to the banks of
the river to experience forgetfulness.

—Peter Achroyd, *Thames The Biography*

In Addition To

Between the two forms and four directions of finality,
if ever,
choose beginning and west.

Choose something to aspire to.

There within,
should it be heard,
the song bends the bones.

*

No frequent gift.
No below zero.
The mountain,
deriving such bodies,
grants a shadow—
signals morning.

And the wind, again,
catches up to replace remorse.

So do I love her when loose from it.

Not in summation,
but in addition to.

The Principle Agent

Of all the things to lie about:

It was never my intention to make it this far.
Not that I mentioned the Thames that day,
that last day.

Not that I purposely lost touch.

I've taken all my items to numerous locations,
but it's never been a question of what was left undone.

*

Violets, blue violets.

The way one walks downhill first.

She said, I have never been here before.

She had.

Base times height,
and boundaries.

This is the result of her contents.

The night before she had dreamt about errors.
About choices.
All the chances in the world, all the probabilities.

*

O Romance,

that anguish of curiosity.
That dimension now tangible.

*

The sun's light hit the windowsill.

She looked up and said, not as sorry as I am.

*

I wait for her letters.

Perimeter

On the outside:

having known something,
only not what it means.

It's the beginning, someone says, but only as far as boundaries are concerned.

The experts whisper: *It's bird bones, it's matter of her hollow state.*

On the inside:

skeleton of merit,
she hoards up the marrow.

Like laughing is remembering,
and remembering: the saddest sound in the world.

O Romance,
she asks the humble arms of humility
to carry her home.

*

The experts articulate “ordinary” originated from wildflowers.
Wildflowers originated from bird bones.

*

O Romance,
if there was ever room to invade.

Consume (one)

*-v., used with a subject;
to eat or drink up; devour*

In this instance
assume the principle agent is rainwater.
Assume the subject is the principle agent.

Where, then, did it originate?

*

A pathway of consumption.
A permission of birth.

Merit.
Merit me, she asks.

Walking, as though it was returning.

The way it hurts to laugh.

Consume (two)

*-intran v.,
to waste or burn away; perish*

Two sides to every coin,
and there continue: adages.

I am consumed by it

and this skeleton,
if there was ever room to invade.

*

The experts have two rules:

When something is distracting concentrate on its shadow.

and

Never open the match-box upside down.

*

From what I could tell
she had hollow bones,
those of a bird.
From what I could tell
the principle agent originated
from an impending prediction of loss.

The catalyst: silence.

The experts have asked I come back more an island,
more a mountain road,
so I dream about errors.

I dream about walking with someone, and even if I can't recognize
who they are, I am pleased they're with me.

So do I love her when loose from it.

(the way one interrupts their sleep)
(the way the birds pretend they don't know about rain)

I've taken to writing down what the experts say.
I've taken four items to three different locations.