

There Was a Time 那时曾有一刻

When our eyes were bright, and our skin was smooth  
When you laughed without worry, and we grinned over pints  
When you wiggled your nose, forgave jokes that fell flat  
That was a time when you could have said yes

那时我们眼神清亮 皮肤光滑  
你笑得无忧无虑 共我畅饮忘形  
当你皱着鼻子 原谅我的冷笑话  
那时 曾有一刻你想说“我愿意”

After we kissed, and left without regret  
After we traveled, and missed all of the sites  
After we fought, took account of our mess  
That was a time when you could have said yes

在我们全情拥吻 不留遗憾之后  
在我们携手同游 却错过所有景点之后  
在我们大吵一架 收拾一地烂摊子之后  
那时 曾有一刻你想说“我愿意”

That time we danced  
That time we cried  
That time it stormed                    so dinner was two bottles of wine  
That was a time when you should have said yes

共舞的时光  
对泣的时光  
外面风雨     所以晚餐只有两瓶红酒的时光  
那时 有多好——如果你说了“我愿意”

And the days fled            and the heart waned  
And lives were led            and the city changed  
And when we consider all that we'll have  
Does it matter that you never said yes?

时光流逝 爱意盈亏  
生活一日日过 城市逐渐陌生  
当我们想到我们未来可能的样子  
还有所谓吗 你从未说过“我愿意”？

Before we grew into who we became  
Before ambitions and desires were tamed

Before obligations  
Was it still fine for you to say yes?

在我们长成那样的大人之前  
在野心与欲望尚未被驯服之前  
在重重责任当前  
那时 你是否依然愿意说“我愿意”？

Retrace these steps  
Through alleys familiar  
When our eyes were bright  
And we grinned over pints

再走一遍  
那些熟悉的巷子  
我们眼神清亮  
畅饮忘形

Listen for rain  
And in the morning, remember  
All of those times  
You were saying

倾听雨声  
在次日清晨 回想起  
所有那些时刻  
你笑着说

The Other Side      另一面

跑馬溜溜的山上、一朵溜溜的雲哟  
端端溜溜的照在、康定溜溜的城哟  
月亮彎彎、康定溜溜的城哟  
—Opening stanza of “Kangding Love Song”  
《康定情歌》开头

Paoma to the east, grasslands to the west.  
Wherefrom the mist, spilling over the peaks?

跑马往东，草甸向西。  
山巅的霏雾，自何而流溢？

What's on the other side, beyond what the eyes can see?  
That for you is the human beast,

那另一面有什么，超过目力所能及？  
那就是两脚兽，

Lurching between living and abyss:  
Beyond the yaks and frost trees,

徘徊于活着与深渊之间：  
漫过那些牦牛与挂着霜华的树林，

Beyond buntings, and prayers  
Thrashing in breeze.                      Desire is limitless.

漫过那些经幡，还有祷词  
在风中飘摇。                      欲望，无边无际。

The universe is so large:  
Are we not satisfied looking up at the stars?

宇宙如此广袤浩瀚：  
我们便无法满足于对群星的仰望？

Oceans shiver in the dark:  
Why not bask in the murmuring creek?

大海在幽暗中震颤：  
那何不就在潺潺的溪流中徜徉？

Our Earth is singular:  
Are we not satisfied with its beauty?

我们的星球独特超凡：  
可我们就是无法满足于在她的美中安然静享？

And how many of us, like the lovestruck couple in that song  
From Kangding, are looking beyond as we speak? Beyond the limits

我们中还有多少人，如同康定情歌中  
那双热恋的情侣，此时正望向远方？望向那

Of what we want.  
Just to say we went there, the other side.

欲求极限所在 又之外  
只为了想说，我们去过，那另一面。

跑馬溜溜的山上、一朵溜溜的雲哟  
端端溜溜的照在康定

Moonlight's come down  
月光照临

溜溜的城哟

Moonlight's come down to Kangding  
月光照临 在小城康定

*Moonlight's come down to Kangding town*

Join us  
in the moonlight over Kangding  
跟我们一起来  
在这康定城上的清辉中

*Moonlight*

Join us on the other side  
跟我们一起来 在那另一面

*Moonlight's come down to Kangding town*

But I'll be gone when you arrive  
但当你抵达 我已走远

Crazy            疯狂

You know those commercials, that fragrance one  
in particular,  
Natalie Portman saying into the camera:  
*And you*  
— *what would you do for love?*

你看过那些广告，香水的那支  
特别是那一款  
娜塔莉·波特曼对着镜头说：  
那你呢  
——你会为爱做些什么？

What we did was                            *everything*  
  
— we quarreled, we teased, we pestled  
our shoddy, tottery hearts to pulp  
in the mortar of what could not change;

我们为爱所做的                            *是所有一切*

——我们争吵，我们调情，我们把  
自己粗劣、动摇的两颗心捣成了血浆  
在名为“秉性难移”的铁臼中；

we recriminated, impeached, vied en pointe,  
clawed at our eyes to make them see  
the lies of truth, the limits of beauty;

我们唇枪舌剑，疑神疑鬼，锱铢必较，  
抓挠彼此双眼 好让它们看见  
真相会说谎 美好有局限；

we coveted and condemned,  
we ached, lustful and tongue-tied,  
we cried over Skype, uprooted logic and sense

我们觊觎，我们谴责，  
我们感到痛苦，欲望满涨而难发一言，  
我们在视频通话中哭泣，逻辑与常识不值一提

desperate to believe  
love meant struggle could overcome

illness, obliterate enemies  
at the cost of ourselves;

近乎绝望地坚信  
爱是一场苦战可以  
攻克疾病，荡平寇敌  
只要牺牲我们自己；

we spilled into the rain  
where we mined for blood that might prove  
we could be

as ravenous, charged with want  
as those pulchritudinous in scent ads;

我们冲进雨中  
在那里掘地三尺 鲜血淋漓 想要证明  
我们可以

一样饥渴难耐，物欲充盈  
与香水广告里那些尤物别无二致；

we screamed, we pounded  
on surfaces that do not give,

committed violence  
with neglect, balled fists  
upon our own heads, hair tangled with tears,

我们叫嚷，我们挥拳  
对着永不退缩的硬质表面，

互不理睬  
又重拳出击  
对着我们自己的头颅，发丝与泪水交缠，

and within the same hour rode in a car, silent,  
looking out opposite windows.

然后在同一个小时内坐进一辆车里，沉默，  
望向各自的车窗外。

*I'm sorry*, we said,

and considered what was so bad, after all,  
what was so unhealthy, what does it mean to be crazy

对不起，我们说道，  
然后思考 糟透了的是什么，究竟，  
是什么那样不健康，那到底意味着什么 说起 疯狂

but committing the same mistakes  
and the same pleasures,

needing feeling sufficient  
and *alive*, my god, each second a lifetime.

不就是犯着相同的错误  
而又纵情一样的欢愉，

需要 感到满足  
以及活着，天啊，一秒即一生。

We wanted to say,  
I'm living a series of delusions  
in which I deserve you,

我们本来想说，  
我活得有如一连串错觉  
以为自己值得拥有你，

but fearing sentiment, lacking  
courage, what we said instead:

Stop being this part of yourself.  
Let's take some time.  
Let's take some time.

但怕太感伤，又缺乏  
勇气，我们转而说：

你别再这样放任你的这一面  
不如我们冷静一段儿。  
不如我们冷静一段儿。

*And time took us*  
*to our alleys and bays*  
*far and away*

*What we did was*  
*more than we could*  
*and more than we'll say*

*And time took us*  
*to the ends of the world*  
*far and away*

*where one's night*  
*was the other's day*

时间把我们带到了  
各自的小巷与海湾  
相距万里

我们所为  
超过我们所应为  
超过我们所会宣之于口

时间把我们带到了  
世界的两端  
相距万里

这里的黑夜  
是那儿的白天

What we really meant was:  
What then?  
What next?  
When?

我们的言下之意其实是：  
然后呢？  
如何？  
何时？



Summer 2020      2020 年夏

They know summer has arrived, in May,  
when the heat stays

他们知道夏天来了，在五月里，  
当热气勾留

like a grandson returned from abroad.  
In the afternoon they slip outside to the curb,

跟一个从海外归国的孙儿一样。  
下午 他们遛跬到马路牙子边儿，

wheelchair next to folding stool,  
fine-tuned to the distance of weather

轮椅与折凳 并排坐着，  
对天气的变化与多愁善感

and sentiment, eager  
to leave the humidity to the hot

早已调适停当，恨不能  
将这潮湿留给炽热

memories of youth. It's been a fine life.  
They have survived

青春的记忆。此生已算不错。  
他们捱过了

each other, knowing how quickly  
the world can turn.

彼此，知道世界的倾覆  
可以多么迅疾。

Interesting, the disposition days can take,  
placid one second,

有趣啊，这日子的脾性变化无常，  
上一秒风平浪静，

then fury and riot  
flooding us where we sit.

下一秒暴风骤雨  
将我们就地淹没。

Clouds are wrung dry, the old couple  
soaked to their bones.

雨云被拧得一滴不剩，老两口儿  
从里到外浇了个透。

As others scamper for cover, they wait  
to be aired out in the late sun.

其他人奔走避雨，而他们等着  
在傍晚的阳光中被风吹干

And masks, what's the point?  
Dangers always lurk, but

还有 那些口罩，有什么用？  
危险永远四处潜藏，但

pleasures, too, like breathing  
in the purified air. They are comforted

欢欣 也一样，比如 呼吸  
这 洗净的空气。他们得到快慰

by the assurance of change:  
storm to cloudless, cold to warm.

得自世事必然轮转的天道：  
雨后必晴，冬后必春。

The Widow            孀妇

Today I woke further away  
Who knows why some memories fade

今日 我醒来 又远离了些  
有谁知道 那些回忆 为何渐渐消散

Some other today, I'll forget this place  
Wonder, how are you, and where

总有另一个今日，我会忘掉这个地方  
而疑惑着，你怎样了？去了哪儿？

In summer heat, or spring rain  
On that swingset, our first date

是在炎夏的热浪中，还是春雨里  
抑或我们初次相约的那个秋千座上

In the backyard where we chased  
Under the pergola where you said yes

是在我们追逐笑闹的那个后院里  
还是你许下诺言的那个藤花架下

I want the cigarette off your lips  
The midnight giggle, the morning kiss

我想要 你唇间的那支烟  
那午夜的调笑，晨间的轻吻

I want to wake with your breath on mine  
Or, short of that, to know we're fine

我想要 清晨在你的鼻息下醒来  
或者至少，知道我们安然无碍

*My dear, my dear  
You have to wait*

*Try recounting  
Our bygone days*

*My dear, my dear  
You have to wait*

*Try recounting  
Yesterday*

吾爱，吾爱  
仍须相待  
何不追忆  
昔时密爱  
吾爱，吾爱  
仍须相待  
试行相忆  
昨日重来

And when the kids visit, I sit and stare  
At the geography between here and there

孩子们来看我时，我坐在那儿 望着  
走马灯般流转 我们曾相伴的这里 那里

What do you mean I have to wait?  
I have been counting: today today today

你为什么说我还要再等待？  
我天天都在计日苦捱：今日 今日 今日

**Writing Myth      书写神话**

In the mythology of us  
we can rewrite our love.

在我们的神话里  
我们的爱情可以重写

On first sight, let's say,  
hearts racing, time stopped.

眼神初会，这样说吧，  
心跳加速，时间静止。

Our first kiss  
a leap of trust,

我们的初吻  
是信任的飞跃，

butterflies in our guts.  
Our quarrels resolved

万千蛱蝶 胸中翻飞。  
我们的争吵 得以平息

with flowers and wine,  
bloodless and sane.

借着鲜花与红酒，  
毫无血腥 又理智。

Our nights lambent,  
bodies twisted,

我们的夜晚 摇曳闪烁  
激情相拥

scars we can touch,  
watchful stars above.

伤痕可以触碰，  
群星在头顶注视。

In the mythology of us  
angels abide,

在我们的神话里  
天使们隐忍着，

their envy as praise.  
Look at us

她们的嫉妒 有如颂歌。  
透过她们的眼睛

through their eyes,  
unhewn and ablaze.

看看我们，  
未经雕琢 又璀璨夺目

Love is a crossing:  
Let us take it

爱是一场远航：  
让我们踏上旅程

through rain and memory  
to the boundary between night

穿过风雨与回忆  
前往黑夜与白天的

and day. Let us compose  
our love, our commitment

分野。让我们谱写  
我们的爱，我们的承诺

defiant like a moral, stone coiled  
like scandent stems, like light

坚贞不驯 如同诫律难撼，古柱藤缠  
依旧屹立不改，如同珍珠中

bottled in pearl.  
We are the exception.

所凝结的光彩。  
我们 就是那个完满的例外。

And when thunder strikes  
or water swells the sky,

以及 何时鸣雷闪电  
何时巨浪滔天

whether metaphor  
for cataclysm or rapture,

是昭示着  
灭顶之灾 还是 激情飞扬,

we decide it together.  
In the mythology of us

我们共同来决定。  
在我们的神话里

we are our own heroes  
pumping fists, swilling

我们自己便是英雄  
舞动双拳，痛饮

merry wine, our smile wide  
as Bacchus's butt.

欢宴美酒，大笑时的嘴  
像酒神的尊臀那样宽。

But what if,  
just if,

但是万一，  
只是万一，

we were as Euripides  
sitting in the shade of a laurel tree

我们像欧里庇得斯那样  
坐在月桂的树阴下

and decided, after all,  
this would be a tragedy?

然后决定，最终，  
这要以悲剧作结呢？

A three-act play  
where, after the kiss,

一场三幕剧  
初吻之后便上床，

a chest pillows a head,  
an apology.

醒来头枕着胸膛，  
一声道歉就散场。