

Doing Business + 2

By

Andrej Bilovsky

WHY I LIKE THEM: Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH SCRETCH writes...

Andrej Bilovsky is as romantic as uproarious, it's almost reassuring. In 'NO MORE,' "I've invested in life's wants / bodies in so many beds / but what's really mine / won't wash off in the rain" "meticulous, miraculous, / careful with the rhododendrons" "my highest self / is my love" Am I getting anywhere here? Reckless in affairs of the heart, but mindful of the rhododendrons; as Epiphany awaits, one of those terracotta pop-up goddesses. 'PLAYING MY FIELD,' "the weight is off / I eat just enough to keep me scrawny / guys invite me inside ..." "like two tabs of something, / gulped down greedily / so I don't totally sour -" Our Beloved Andrej. Yet, 'DOING BUSINESS:' "stewardship / of trees, flowers, windows, / recyclables bins, / sources of water," and "as a last resort - / genitals - / it's Saturday night, / almost eleven, / and I've already sold a few" Bilovsky is a perfect pip, a one-of-a-kind. But what else are we double-backed beasts to do in the midst of mating season? (To maintain poet's spacing each poem is on its own page. Please scroll down.)

NO MORE

last show

keys turning in locks stand for all things
kissed so many
even in bathrooms

I've invested in life's wants
bodies in so many beds

but what's really mine
won't wash off in the rain

now
I'm safe enough
to comb my hair
in front of you

meticulous, miraculous,
careful with the rhododendrons

don't want grime
getting under your fingernails

no abuse,
just names spoken near silently
inside your arms,
the safest view of the hurricane

it's a release
to say you're my favorite

my highest self
is my love

PLAYING MY FIELD

the weight is off
I eat just enough to keep me scrawny
guys invite me inside
here
they say –
come feed the hippo –

and so it is
I fuck my way
through half a dozen
yeast cultures

none in the name
of perpetuity –

like two tabs of something,
gulped down greedily
so I don't totally sour -

but I couldn't carry me any longer,
this needed to be done,
I am learning –

first from a banana,
lately with a guy who wears tailored suits

DOING BUSINESS

praying,
meditating,
primitive rites,
stewardship
of trees, flowers, windows,
recyclables bins,
sources of water,
a plum,
interaction with a ground squirrel,
a hosanna,
a medallion,
a leathery lean look,
hand pressed tight to brow,
and
as a last resort –
genitals -

it's Saturday night,
almost eleven,
and I've already sold a few

THE POET SPEAKS: *Poetry, to me, is a kind of note-taking in my moments when I'm alone. I'm inspired by the San Francisco poets – Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti etc but I try to create my own little niche and a form where I can collect my thoughts succinctly so that, being my thoughts and nobody's else's, they come out as something wholly original and my own. Inspiration for all these poems is my life as it happens, whether its strolling the city, encounters with potential lovers or events in the news. I love reading the works of other poets and leave myself open to their inspirations. But, in the end, I want my poems to reflect what is inside me.*

AUTHOR BIO: Andrej Bilovsky (he/him) is a poet and performance artist. Former editor of Masculine-Feminine and Kapesnik. His poetry can be found at the Quiver and Down In The Dirt.

