

# Preludes & Fugues

## **BOOK THREE**



**Poems by Jnana Hodson**

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*Poems set in Book Antiqua,*

*cover in Footlight MT and Segoe Black*

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36/

a sumptuous golden gown  
worn with a pale green sun

\* \* \*

Keep This Coupon

101953

of illuminated scent that unfolds as a stairway  
dragged across the wall as a sumptuous golden gown  
*as that one-cup-and-she's-wired daughter of yours*

worn with a pale green sun metal-leaf tree  
a reminder, Keep This Coupon (101953) dragged  
across the worn wall of pale green sun

with its illuminated scent of sumptuous  
golden metal-leaf tree unfolding as a stairway  
*that one-cup-and-she's-wired daughter of yours*  
in a gown Keeps This Coupon (101953)  
worn dragging the wall against pale green  
sun a metal-leaf tree

back when Rolling Stone was a newspaper  
of illuminated scent unfolding as a stairway  
this Coupon 101953 kept a sumptuous golden  
*one-cup gown wired to that daughter of yours*

yes, that daughter dragged across the worn  
green sun of illuminated scent the opulent  
gown of metal-leaf stairway  
back when Rolling Stone was a newspaper

37/

action figures  
watch a meter running  
at the center of twenty-two electric guitars

\* \* \*

to watch a meter running in the *first round of triage*  
amid 26 thumbnails of mostly Third World import  
and an assortment of drums and tambourines

to shoot marbles protecting action figures  
to two boys stuck in the Great Depression  
of two water tanks on two towers on two factory roofs

to run *a first round of triage, they'll* watch the meter's 26  
thumbnails of mostly Third World import assort  
marble drums and tambourines and then shoot  
action figures to protect two boys stick Great Depression  
atop two water tanks on two towers on two factory roofs  
as the meter runs *a first round of triage in 26* thumbnails  
of mostly Third World imported drums and marbles

to protect action figures two tambourines strike  
great sorrowful water tanks on factory roofs  
as two boys watch the meter running *trriage*

a sunflower and rainbow cover  
Spanish harbor fortifications fully  
a whiskered rat sniffs a cigarette butt  
still burning with cruel artifice as urbanity's  
feathered woman the width of the street  
dresses for a parading angel  
lifts a torch at the center of twenty-two electric  
    guitar-playing women in the back of a trailer  
pair running shoes they'll hang from utility wire  
    over Kate Moss posing in front of a grate

with so many strings and woofers, all pertaining  
    to Brooklyn sunflowers and rainbows  
this could be some Spanish harbor fortification with urbanity  
    where Kate Moss poses in front of a grate fully whiskered  
or that rat sniffs a cigarette butt, still burning a feathered  
    woman the width of the street dressed for parade  
becomes an angel lifting a torch for twenty-two  
    electric organs at the back of a trailer plus  
a squealing guitar pertaining with cruel artifice  
    to Brooklyn utility wires over the street

in high voltage shoes Kate Moss poses in front of a grate  
    as urbanity includes an electric guitar,  
    Habla, habla

a fully whiskered rat sniffs a cigarette butt, still burning  
    with cruel artifice in front of a grate a feathered woman  
the width of the street dressed for parade angel lifting  
    a torch to the center of twenty-two electric guitars  
three women in the back of a trailer each tie  
    a pair of running shoes hanging from a utility wire  
over the street of urbanity Kate Moss pretends  
    the front of a grate is a fully whiskered rat sniffing  
a cigarette butt still burning a feathered woman  
    dressed for parade the width of the street an angel  
lifts her torch at the center of three women  
    in the back of a trailer another electric guitar  
pertains to Brooklyn with cruel artifice  
    running shoes light a utility wire, Habla, habla

38/

in a salt marsh  
 in a lush gorge  
 against a glacier

\* \* \*

at sunrise twelve horses  
*set out* far below  
 a totem pole at sunrise in a salt marsh

horses *set out* below a totem pole  
 of twelve waterfowl trumpeting

at sunrise, yes, twelve horses  
*set out* far below waterfowl  
 in a salt marsh

*graze for yourself* in a lush gorge  
*the agenda opens* rhododendron  
 or a bald eagle on ash-covered slope

growling, yes, rhododendron openly graze  
 in a lush gorge under the bald eagle  
 the *agenda of fish* covering a slope

there, the rhododendron blooms  
 growl in the lush night, in its gorge  
 the *agenda* you graze, hovering

no bald eagle on ash-covered slope  
 growls its *agenda* on ash-covered  
 rhododendron grazing into night

39/

a dingy moored on still water  
*dancing to Bix tonight*  
 in front of the boulder and island

\* \* \*

in front of the boulder and island  
 moored on still water  
 spires, houses, and the brick millyard  
 red between granite

a dingy in front of the boulder and island  
 moored on still water spires,  
 houses, and the brick millyard

red between granite  
 a dingy  
 in front of the boulder and island  
 moored on still water

spires, houses, and the brick millyard  
 red between granite  
 a dingy

*dancing to Bix tonight* in a blue lake  
 against mountains reflected foliage  
 along a green river moose drab  
 on a sandbar amid *dancing to Bix*  
*tonight* foliage along a green river  
 in a blue lake against mountains moose  
 amid reflected sallow *dancing tonight*  
 foliage along a green river, Bix on a sandbar  
*looking down from the hill* in blue

lake against mountains *dancing*  
to Bix tonight moose dun foliage along  
a green river sandbar in blue mountains  
against moose reflections *looking down the hill*

40/

three dogwood

two owls

a stone barn

\* \* \*

stone fence

halfway up the valley of silos, tractor trailers  
in mirrored sunrise

the symmetry, *yee hah!* of fence half stone  
up the valley silos, tractor trailers, in the mirror  
of sunrise coming home, *yee hah!*  
setting forth along stone fence halfway up  
the valley silos, tractor trailers,

in glittering *yee hah!* sunrise  
so fleeting, unbalanced  
between the gloved hands

a rosebud, three dogwood, two owls  
a stone barn with blossoms that God  
in front of a lone maple looks down

in a rosy stone barn fronting a lone dogwood  
three maple blossoms look on two owls  
that God, in a rousing talk in front of the lonely

fireworks of dogwood, owls, rosebud  
blossoms, by God, around a stone barn

in front of a lone dogwood, what blossoms  
into a conversation of two owls with God  
looks up, looks down, looks around fireworks

41/

in the dune of the black-eyed Susan  
*a schedule diametrically opposed to my own*

\* \* \*

a stargazer adjusts a pile of broken  
shell and black-eyed Susan polished by sea-spray

in the dune behind an urchin  
adjusting broken shell, the black-eyed Susan

polished by mist, the blanched dune  
kelp adjusting a pile of broken shell

and black-eyed Susan polished  
by surf sweeping along the dune

an astronomer adjusts *a schedule diametrically opposed*  
*to* purple shoreline in the type case of shells and dull-edged  
glass where *my own* pile of green stones in the box of shells  
pile up *a schedule diametrically opposed to* dull-edged glass  
the purple astronomer adjusts the typeface in case  
shoreline shells pile his green-stone telescope somehow  
*diametrically opposed to any heavenly schedule* he attempts  
*tuning the* dull-edged glass of *my own* type case of shells  
piles in *a schedule diametrically opposed to* dull-edged  
green stones along shoreline where I've set *my own* telescope

42/

ceramic dragon as a weed patch with teeth

you, me, it

*don't forget the oyster crackers*

\* \* \*

the repose of an attic ceramic dragon  
papered in autumn foliage of a white T-shirt  
and four blue candles caps a corner mattress  
with weeds and a sequoia the attic room reposes  
in a white T-shirt, a blue cap feeds on a corner mattress  
the tile dragon ignites four candles with weeds  
a sequoia papers autumn foliage over the reposing feed  
that rooms in a white T-shirt and blue feed cap

a repairman walks past a weed patch  
with teeth in white shorts

climbing a gray windmill two people  
walk past as weeds with teeth patch

white shorts on two people climbing  
a gray windmill repairman walks past

two people in white shorts and gray  
windmill teeth climb a weed patch

in a corner in a weed mattress and sequoia  
four candles won't forget the oyster crackers  
nor tile ceramic dragon papered in autumn foliage  
all the repose of an attic room of four candles fed  
a white T-shirt and blue feed cap a mattress  
corners a tile ceramic dragon with weeds  
and a sequoia papered in autumn foliage feed  
don't forget the oyster crackers atop four candles

43/

green drapes  
the first week of leaf

before the coral color of cooked lobster

\* \* \*

coral (stars) (in a buds of) still birches  
(with the wind) an ocean of northern lights

divers (however) shamefaced  
avoid the first leaf  
draping some fancy coral (yet)

northern lights drape the stilled birches  
shamefaced, avoiding some fancy ocean  
frogman first

(as) the coral northern lights  
leaf out, draping

some still sand bar  
beyond fancy birches  
(shelters) a roseate sea nymph

(at noon) divers are shamed  
facing (her) (the one as fleeting as the) first leaf  
or northern lights avoiding (possession) (capture)

(at midnight) hanging still (as) birches, divers  
in their shame, avoid facing  
(their) fancies, first leafing

(in the) still briny reef  
lobster footwork  
coming clear

the still green lobster  
works its feet in coming  
to the clear green

the rippling lobster foot  
works clearly  
in the coming  
green



44/

*no clouds except in the sky as yet*  
snow sits atop cones  
in long-needed pine

\* \* \*

in long-needed pine, a gray hill  
beyond the snow-covered cones  
becomes cloudy sky  
yet pussy willows are molting

gray clouds of snowy pine  
yet the sky covers cones atop long-needed pine  
in the primrose sunrise the snow covers  
pussy willows before you believe summer is coming

yes, beyond the snow-covered gray hill  
wisps of clouds are melting  
into pussy willows and pinecones

with the melting snow atop cones  
the long-needed primrose sun sets  
in a gray hill of pussy willows  
you believe summer is coming

no clouds with the melting  
wall atop gray cones  
beyond the pussy-willow clouds  
with the melting gray wall

birch beyond pussy willows, not clouds  
melting the gray wall atop long-needed cones  
beyond the pussy willows

45/

twisted screening full of insects  
*the cleansing rattle of loose shingles*

\* \* \*

those windows so jaded in their double row  
windows racing past screening the Amoskeag  
its jade cleansing mills  
of the double-row shingles  
screening chiefly the Wampanog who cleanses  
a jaded chief regards chiefly the windows

a Chinaman tacks  
twisted insects to rattles

the red hat trade  
winds a twisted Chinaman

tacked insects rattle so twisted  
the red hat trade winds

insects with a Chinaman tacked  
to rattling red hats in trade

of a double row of mills  
racing the cleansing Wampanog  
would screen any regard  
chiefly under its shingling Amoskeag

46/

*cruelty that arises from bitterness*  
spanning a rocky streambed

\* \* \*

the Japanese bow to India  
with its dry ferns and maple  
with its fronds becoming a cob of ribbon

in the dry fronds of Japanese  
ferns and half-devoured cobs  
the Indian maples bow and dry

cobs of corn and fronds  
in Japan the Indian bows  
as the ferns and maple

dry fronds of Japan maple  
cobs of Indian corn from  
stepping down to the streambed

a staircase cruelly arises  
from rocky bitterness, yes, a staircase  
cruelty that rocky that bitter  
from that staircase cruel, yes,  
arises rocky and bitter

47 /

beach umbrellas at the foot of the sagging pier, forever  
towels wrapped in ribbons on a sandstone floor

\* \* \*

don't know this beach as a sandstone floor  
how long a floor measures good fortune  
wrapped in sandstone ribbon  
this beach a long floor  
doesn't good fortune wrap itself in ribbon  
knowing this how long  
a good beach wrapped sandy fortune

kiss my face running with  
new black Eagle purity at the soapy foot  
of umbrellas she'll kiss my

pure soapy Eagle face  
while umbrellas run with new black  
at her foot I'll kiss this

new black soap opening  
umbrellas forever facing  
my Eagle kiss in the foot run pure

soap face Eagle  
umbrellas run at the foot  
forever new black

48/

with fiddles and crows  
tracing a map of yellow leaves

\* \* \*

on a map of frosted snow  
three crows with their fiddles  
in the crown of their living

of a rock face map, frosted snow  
three crows with their fiddles  
in the crown of their living rock face

on a map, frosted snow, three crows  
with their fiddles in the crown  
out of their rock face, tracing some life

*atop scree, another one at the bottom, wintergreen*

Dudley	Jackie, yellow	leaves
of the forest	scraping	atop scree
Jackie scrapes	wintergreen	yellow leaves
atop scree	Dudley in the forest	scrapes
berry	the other one	at the bottom
wintergreen	atop scree	Jackie, yellow
leaves Dudley	of the forest	the other one
at the bottom	scrapes	wintergreen
yellow	leaves	Dudley
the other one	at the bottom	the berry, after all

49/

to lovers who were never quite present

\* \* \*

(1)

good-bye in the night who never were lovers  
repeatedly saying good-bye in the night  
who never were lovers repeatedly saying  
good-bye in the present night who  
never were tubercular contortions or squiggles  
good-bye tubercular squiggles to lovers' night  
repeatedly saying never quite contortions  
squiggles repeatedly saying good-bye  
to lovers never quite tubercular night

(2)

repeatedly	saying	never quite	present
good-bye	tubercular	contortions	to lovers
	night	squiggles	repeatedly
saying	good-bye	to lovers	never
	quite	tubercular	night

50/

sprawled on the floor, a barefoot bride without makeup

\* \* \*

along with a martial arts master sprawled out  
on the floor a barefoot bride without  
makeup everyone you knew thought  
it only a fragile joke and then

you pulled the trigger: blood runs  
toward the tub drain *what made you think*  
*I had any clue what was afoot?* martial arts student  
sprawled out on the floor, a barefoot bride

without makeup, everyone thinking it only fragile  
joke blood running toward the tub drain *what*  
*made you think I had any clue what was afoot?*  
a martial arts master sprawled out on the floor

a barefoot bride without makeup everyone you  
knew thought it was only a fragile joke  
blood runs toward the tub drain? *what made you think*  
*I had any clue what was afoot?*

kick higher, kick higher  
from the floor

the bride	barefoot	without a clue
the blood	floor	make up
a drain	fragile	bride

blood	in the drain	barefoot
floor	a joke	a clue
without	the bride	the blood

drains	the joke	triggered
barefoot	clueing	the bride
the floor	without	the blood

the drain	barefoot	the floor
joking	a clue	without makeup
the fragile	trigger	<i>made you think</i>

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