

JNANA HODSON

Preludes & Fugues

BOOK TWO



Poems by Jnana Hodson

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who gave number 24 its first airing.*

18/

a yearling
the shape of cirrus clouds
getting hungry

* * *

the shape of cirrus clouds in a line
getting hungry sand cranes superimposed
on the glen's ruddy neck flank of flight
a Holstein yearling in numerals

some sequence the shape of cirrus clouds
in a line on the glen of numerals *getting hungry*
a ruddy neck flank sequence with sand cranes
superimposing flight on a Holstein yearling the shape

of cirrus clouds in a line on the glen of numerals
a sequenced *time for dinner*
getting hungry with sand cranes superimposing
the shape of cirrus clouds in a line of ruddy neck flanks

of flight a Holstein yearling on the glen
of numerals *gets hungry and* ruddy necked
flanking a sequence sand cranes superimposed on flight
with a Holstein yearling in *time for dinner*

* * *

under a brown hill along a waterway
multicolor farmhouses topped
by a white cross under a brown hill along
a waterway multicolor
farmhouses topped by a white cross
between mountains under a brown hill
along a waterway multicolor farmhouses
topped by a white cross between mountains

19/

square
starry
ripples

* * *

windjammer, fully craggy, red-mottled
coasting along coppery grass, the skipper's toucan
squawks with blue-starred *ripples in the fabric*

squared and full of business, the wind
in full sail along a craggy red-mottled coast
with coppery grass, a toucan against blue stars
skippers

ripples in the fabric no small business
jamming the skipper's sails full and craggy
past the red-mottled coast with coppery grass

with stars coasting
the red toucan *ripples the fabric*
toward a downtown square

in full sail windjammer against blue stars *in the fabric*
a toucan with coppery grass
a craggy red-mottled coast
a downtown square in full sail

in the fabric of a craggy red-mottled coast windjammer
a toucan, square against blue stars with coppery
grass in full sail *in the fabric*

coasting from one downtown to another craggy
red-mottled square *ripples*
windjammer against blue stars
in full sail

20/

a liturgy
with numbers and astrological signs
scarred across her chest

* * *

an Orthodox priest with scarred sutures across his chest
beside a hospital bed (in bib overalls) drapes a liturgy
all the while
a young woman, palm to her headband and eye patch,
arm over a cow's neck, numbers the astrological signs

priest	scarred
chest	woman in a ()
arm	over a cow

hospital	palm
numbers	signs

in overalls	a liturgy
eye	a patch

Orthodox sutures across his chest
a young woman, arm over a cow's neck
numbers and astrological signs

at least the cramps have faded

a hospital bed
bib overalls, a liturgy
an Orthodox priest
with scarred sutures across her chest
palm marked
headband and eye patch
a young woman with an arm
over a cow's neck beside, her palm marked

with signs
the cramps have faded

yes,

the cramps have faded a liturgy beside a hospital bed
in overalls, an arm over a cow's neck
a young man in a headband marked with numbers
and faded astrological signs sees *at last the cramps have*
a liturgy an Orthodox priest beside a hospital bed
recites in bib overalls, his arm draped over a cow-
necked young man in a headband and eye patch
his palm marked with numbers and astrological signs
sees *at least the cramps have faded the liturgy*
of an Orthodox priest reciting beside a hospital bed
in bib overalls, his arm over a young man in a headband
and patched numbers and astrological signs eyeing
a cow beside a hospital bed, the bibbed overalls cramped
with Orthodox numbers and signs, the priest, fading

21/

stormy lies
in the eye socket
twisted in the morning

yet no one is in sight

* * *

with the gabby sunrise lipstick of two desiccated mountains
ringing a gardenia in the eye socket, a bell of twisted leaves
with an apprehension blown across sandstone, displacing

the lurking ambush of deceit and death yet no one is in sight
with the lipstick blazing from two desiccated bells she rings
the flowering mountain in the eye socket

with the trunk rising without leaves before gullies
the sandstone affair of death lies upon two desiccated mountains
with a bell to ring in the flowering the eye socket

yet no one in sight twisted the trunk rising without leaves
before the sandstone gullies *the party of death and lies* forgets
the flower is not the color of heroin or cocaine brushing rouge

on cerise lips sliced against gray stone and sanded poppies
with the Victorian fixation (viz. Celia Thaxter) such poppies
the terror of flowers with their allure as the stormy bees blossom

with inky morning glories, blue sky desert, mottled oak
in dun ripples rows of poppies under the butte no one in sight
to forget the color poppies, the Victorian fixation (viz. Celia Thaxter)

the blue desert heroin and cocaine brushing lips with terror
with the flowers, with the allure of gabby bees or mottled oak
in dun ripples rows of poppies under the butte cerise

sliced against gray stone and sand stormy blossoms inky morning
the glory glories, forgetfully as a flower not the color
not the Victorian fixation or blue mottled sky rippling

in dun rows under the butte, Red Poppy and heroin
cocaine brushing rouge on lips cerise sliced against gray stone
and sand forgetting the flower not the color or terror

of their allure with stormy morning glories or inky poppies
the Victorian Celia Thaxter with her blue North Atlantic island
no desert sky, no heroin, no cocaine brushing rouge on lips

the ripping allure of bees in mottled oak or rows of poppies
under the butte cerise sliced against gray stone and everlasting
sand, the stormy blossoms, the inky morning glories

22/

a bit after five and black clouds are rolling in

* * *

Rothko as blocks of fuming color

Rothko in fuming reds

Rothko's Orange and Lilac Over Ivory

Rothko's Blue, Yellow, Green on Red – mostly yellow
as blocks of fuming Blue, Yellow, Green on Red
mostly yellow Rothko in fuming reds

Orange and Lilac Over Ivory blocks of fuming
Blue, Yellow, Green on Red – mostly
Red Over yellow Brown, Rothko

in fuming red-Orange and Lilac
Over Ivory Rothko blocks fuming Blue,
Green on Red plus fuming yellow Orange

reddened Lilac Over Ivory Red

Over Browning, Rothko

(a bit after five) and (black clouds are rolling in)

23/

fish, pony, horse, kite
squiggling

* * *

oh, my, the scribbled fine
small black strokes crossing open
tubes of squiggling paint
plus primaries *in various*
states of creation oh, my,
the scribbles fine small black
strokes crossing open tubes
of squiggling paint plus
primaries *in various states*
of creation my scribbles fine
small black strokes crossing
open tubes of squiggling paint
plus primary *states of creation*

paintings with vultures
sweeping through the gallery
school of fish, glowing matches, two

asparagus heads, the boy
on a pony, the Fire Sale repairman
Goya's horse and rider in motion, four

intertwining squiggles, each a different color
to paint Brown's boy on a pony or horse
and rider in motion sweeping along

the gallery with a vulture, Brown's
Fire Sale repairmen, four squiggles
each intertwining a differently colored school

of fish, glowing matches, asparagus
heads of Brown's Goya's Kite paintings
painting the brown's boy on a brown pony

behind Goya's brown kite squiggling
furioso through the gallery with its
vulture, school of fish, glowing matches

two asparagus heads, Fire Sale repairman
kite, boy on a pony, sweeping up after
the Fire Sale repairman has intertwined

four squiggles of different colored
fish, glowing asparagus heads, kites
Goya and Brown and me, squiggling, *furioso*

24/

there, in thick grass beside a slow stream
a Jersey heifer
wears telescope goggles to observe
a bragging rival

* * *

one with horns turns
to observe the huddled two Holsteins
wait for grain

three in thick grass beside a slow stream
four in a high meadow
four on a green slope, still

a Jersey heifer, a bragging rival with horns
turns to the huddled dairy cows awaiting
grain

three in thick grass beside a slow stream
four brown in a high meadow
along a green slope

a Jersey heifer wears telescope goggles
to observe a bragging rival
with long horns turns

the dairy cows, huddle, waiting
for grain beside a slow stream
and the high green meadow

the inertia, meanwhile, is extraordinary
waiting, huddling, bragging rival
mooring, with horns

turning to observe *the inertia*
meanwhile, a Jersey heifer wears telescope goggles
to stalk a bragging rival

four brown cattle in a high meadow
four on a green slope
two Holsteins waiting for grain

three in thick grass beside a slow stream
the inertia, meanwhile, is
brown, green, mooing, bragging

the wait for grain
huddled beside a slow stream mooing
in the inertia

meanwhile, a Jersey heifer wears telescope goggles
to observe another cow, its bragging
“meow”

25/

totem sea monster devouring
cow horns and copper tears

the heckler
and worshippers of falsehood

* * *

totem sea monster devouring darkened
“worshippers of truth, foes of falsehood,” despite
Cicero’s singing *the heckler did not show up* before

the actor with bright red lips and two hundred
people wearing identical masks of totems and
voodoo portraits with button eyes and the beard

in the circular stone face lacking teeth singing
of a pigtailed woman smiles in the crosshairs
perplexing a radiant sun, the totem sea monster

devours something in the unidentifiably dark
singing of a wall of grinning jack o-lanterns convened
as “worshippers of truth, foes of falsehood,” even Cicero

as an actor with bright red lips addressing two
hundred identical masked totems and voodoo portraits
all button eyes and teeth in a circular stone face lacking

stone, a beard singing something about a dark totem
sea monster devouring “worshippers of truth, foes
of falsehood” while Cicero cast as an actor with

bright red lips crows *the heckler did not show up*
in the face of two hundred people wearing identical masks
perplexing a radiant sun a wall of jack o-lanterns, all

grinning voodoo portraits with button beards in their
circular faces lacking teeth, the pigtailed singing
woman smiles in the stony crosshairs

a plaster cast of teeth, a peacock's brow
silver shells and black tassels at the ears
two clamshells, jawbone and antlers

growling lion with broken teeth and cow horns
a terrifying circular mask of large peacock feathers
silver disk moonface and copper tears

the plaster jawbone and antlers cast in a disk
of the moon and a peacock's brow silvery
shells and black tassels at the ears growling

O lion of broken teeth and two copper tears
and two clamshell tears, extending long horns
from a terrifying circular mask of large feathers

peacock	plaster	beak
jawbone	spike	shimmering
coppery	teardrops	tassel

growling: *would it be fun if you weren't a bit afraid?*
with coppery gun shells and blackened ears
could there be clams or peacocks
in a funny mask of plaster feathers?

behind the cow jaw, silver disk shells and
black tassels in the mane of the growling lion
if you weren't a bit afraid?

26/

in a frame within a frame
a portrait of a man behind cracked glass
bleeding from a wound in his forehead

* * *

in a frame within a frame of earth splattered
with flattened cupcake wrappers arrayed
under the radio telescope toward

one longhorn steer skull a portrait
of a man behind cracked glass in a frame
within a frame on earth splattered with flattened

cupcake wrappers arrayed under the radio telescope
toward one longhorn steer skull portrait of a man
behind a cracked glass frame within a frame

on earth splattered with flattened cupcake wrappers
arrayed under the radio telescope in its longhorn
steer skull portrait of a man behind cracked glass

bleeding from a wound in his forehead
they could be Scots without plaid
in a precession with families of ducks

not your High Plains regalia clusters of plaster saint statues
in robes behind splattered cracked glass bleeding
from his High Plains regalia portrait of Scots

without plaid clusters of plaster saint statues in robes
splattered in a precession of families of ducks
behind cracked glass bleeding from a wound

in his forehead not your High Plains regalia
portrait splattered *I sweated a lot, so did they*
who could be Scots without plaid in a precession

with families of ducks bleeding from a wound
in his forehead clusters of plaster saint statues
robed in cracked glass High Plains regalia

they could be Scots without plaid clusters of plaster
the saintly statues in robes splattered in a precession
with ducking families *I sweated a lot, so did they*

27/

in red costume and blue mask, with long white talons
a half-millennium before this decade
a centaur rides before a yapping small dog

* * *

to tack down lace and whipstitch a collar
in red costume and blue mask, with long white talons
a half-millennium before this decade
a centaur rides along Italy

with legs splayed *to tack down lace*
and whipstitch a collar a half-millennium
before this decade a centaur
rides along Italy in red costume and blue mask

his long white talons and legs splayed
as tacked down lace and a whipstitched collar
a half-millennium before a centaur with splayed legs

while Jessi took a shower a renaissance courtier
in silk shoes, his red arm in his white pants splayed
to trip a jester in a triune hat before a yapping small dog
that dangles a rabbit, floats

in the time *Jessi showered* in the splayed vapors
a rabbit dangled a renaissance courtier in silk shoes
before a jester in a triune hat floated
his red arm in his white pants before a yapping small dog

vaporous *while Jessi's shower* splayed a dangling rabbit
floating from the long white talons
of a renaissance courtier in silk shoes and white pants
whose arm reddened *while Jessi took a shower*

before the yapping small dog jester in a red triune hat
and white pants carries a dangling rabbit
of a renaissance courtier in silk shoes and triune hat
floats his red arm and long white talons

28/

an elephant with flowers painted
around the eyes and painted toenails

four zebras sipping water

* * *

luxurious green tent on safari white bone
ornaments through noses armed for the hunt
and cocktails already served
three African bushmen in a field of wrinkled flesh
eyelid (the elephant) *the rain*
is needed, sticky or no sticky (unlike the rhino)

zebras, black and white in a splash of vibrant green
with netting over the bed
luxurious green tent on safari white
bone ornaments through their noses
armed for the hunt and cocktails
already served three bushmen in a field
of wrinkled African flesh, an eyelid (the elephant)
the rain is needed, sticky or no sticky
(unlike the rhino) zebras, black and white

in a splash of vibrant green
with netting
over the bed's luxurious green safari tent
white bone noses armed for the ornamental
hunt cocktails served by three bushmen
in an African field of wrinkled eyelids needing *rain*
sticky or no sticky the elephant (unlike the rhino) or
zebras, black and white in a splash
of vibrant green netting over the bed ornaments

beasts leaping from dust into a tropical river
before a tiger atop a car spirals between
four zebras sipping water the way
a camel's nose runs ahead of its mouth:

the hairy trunk and mouth of an elephant, so spotted
forages on hind legs, trunk and tusks upraised to the tree

the elephant with flowers painted
around the eyes and painted toenails
still leaps from the dust into a tropical river

a camel's nose runs ahead of its mouth from hind legs
upraised to the tree in front of the tiger
atop a car of spiraling spots

the hairy trunk and mouth with flowers painted
around the eyes guarding four zebras sipping water
and the foraging beasts leap from dust into the river
running ahead of its mouth

a camel on hind legs, the tree painted with flowers
and toenails *a feeling of life finally coming together*

atop a car, four zebras leap from the dust
into a hairy river and forage
a feeling of life finally coming together these days

29/

such a beautifully speckled trout
balancing on its head

* * *

in June
swirling
a long fish
a fish as long as the boy

a boy balancing a large fish on his head
in June swirling a long fish

a fish as long as the boy
a boy balancing a large fish on his head in June
swirling

a long fish as long as the boy
balancing a large fish on his head

red, yellow, blue, and green
under a decorative fish such a beautifully
speckled trout of a man running
back with quahogs and a tan Beyond Frog Hollow
tours halibut? red, yellow, blue, and green
man running tours under a decorative
fish *back with quahogs and a tan*
halibut? such a beautifully speckled trout
Beyond Frog Hollow red, yellow, blue, and green
a man running tours of halibut?

I really do need to get to know fish:
how to identify them under a decorative
beautifully speckled trout

red, yellow, blue, and green *back with quahogs*
and a tan Beyond Frog Hollow man runs
tours under decorative *quahogs and a tan* halibut or
such beautifully speckled trout Beyond Frog Hollow
I really do need to identify

30/

two hands, in shadow play
in the aquarium, spawning salmon

* * *

a wad of dollars unfurling a skinhead
with piercings and tattoos cutting
a woman's hair short
as fish scales in front of nude paintings
in a hazy salon yes, feeling the shaved head
unfurling a wad of dollars skinhead piercings
and tattoos cutting a woman's hair short as fish scales
in front of nude paintings in a hazy salon
yes, feeling the shaved head wads
dollars that would unfurl a skinhead's
piercings and tattoos cut short as a woman's
fish scales in front of nude paintings in a hazy salon
yes, feeling the shaved head

petroglyph man with a tail, raising an ax
in the aquarium, spawning salmon
with emblems of faith or ideology
as if to strike another or the antelope before them
deer grooming a deer or out-and-out commerce
twenty-five hands inscribed top and bottom
with a petroglyph man with a tail
raising an ax with emblems of faith
or ideology or out-and-out commerce in the aquarium
spawning salmon as if to strike another
or the antelope before them with twenty-five hands
inscribed top and bottom two hands
in shadow play deer grooming a deer petroglyph man

with a tail raising ax emblems of faith or ideology
or out-and-out commerce twenty-five hands inscribed
top and bottom *I have never felt so cherished or
that I have ever so trusted someone to be
who he presented himself to be*
in the aquarium, spawning salmon
two hands, in shadow play, the petroglyph man with a tail
raises an ax as if to strike another or the antelope
before them, emblems of faith or ideology or out-and-out
commerce in the aquarium, spawning salmon
as if to strike twenty-five hands inscribed top and bottom
with two antelope, in shadow play, and deer grooming a deer

*I have never felt so cherished or
that I have ever so trusted someone to be
who he presented himself to be*

31/

a turtle sniffs
a box turtle shell
of blue spotted turtles

* * *

life out of a silly overnight bag
is getting me disoriented as much as sleeping
peasants with Mrs. Kerry form a turtle shell squall line

behind golden marsh hay, *life out of a silly*
overnight bag is disorienting
the sleeping peasants with Mrs. Kerry on a turtle shell

a squall line behind golden marsh hay *life*
out of a silly overnight bag has me disoriented
with sleeping peasants or Mrs. Kerry

on a turtle shell squall line behind golden marsh hay

waiting to dive to the river woven into a pouch
a turtle sniffs a petroglyph figure squall line
of blue spots painted on sunglasses

with slumber waiting to dive to the river
a petroglyph figures sunglasses woven into a pouch
are a squall line sleeping with the turtle

sniffing blue spots painted into waiting
that dives to the river petroglyph figure
sleeping behind sunglasses in a box

woven into a pouch a turtle sniffs
the awaited dive to the river
squall line of blue spots

paints a petroglyph figure on sunglasses
woven into a pouch with a squall line
of sleeping blue turtles sniffing a spotted box

32/

a bald head
and a human skull, crying

* * *

a hand against the mirror
a horse skull
bald

forming a hand
against the mirrored horse skull
baldly informing

a hand against the mirror
will turn a horse skull's
bald formality

a hand *with clay* crying
monkeys felt instead of furry
ferns forming prayer hands

monkeys ferns *with clay*
feeling instead of forming prayer
crying in furry-handed imitation

fern strokes in *clay* sorrow
handling felt
instead of furry monkeys

clay ferns on felt instead of prayer
forming elephantine bristly
strokes

33/

four pale sets of lips
rimmed in frost
prayer flags and the Potala

* * *

prayer flags and Potala of burning Buddhas
in rocky arena "251," plus that Tibetan Red Tara's
recipe for Himalayan incense prayer flags and

the Potala of burning Buddhas in rocky "251"
four burning bushes in the recipe for Himalayan incense
prayer flags plus Tibetan Red Tara recipe for incense

four burning bushes, four pale sets of lips
the Himalayan prayer flags and the Potala recipe
names "251," plus the rimmed frost of burning

Buddhas in a rocky arena of four burning bushes
prayer flags and the four pale sets of lips
as recipe for Himalayan incense prayer flags

rimmed in frost of burning Buddhas, *Hari Om Tat Sat:*
the hairy WHAT? pale sets of lips burning
Red Tara in a prayer flag recipe from the Potala

34/

the angel Aquarius, with a bare foot pointed to the stars
reclines on a stone bench
in front of a domed courthouse

* * *

Vermont green in decline where money
was once transformed into Corinthian columns
and porticos overlooking lawns high over reflected
water as much as the Grand Hotel first-floor porch
the length of a building that would *blast your yuppie façade*

hidden opposite a kitchen under an atrium lined
with classical Greek busts inscribing some tryst
in Greek drama nightlife countered by the classical proportions
of a domed courthouse goddess in laurel and a red gown
far from the masted ships in a storm, her arms bared

her bare feet Vermont green, reclining where
once money was made carving Corinthian columns
uphold a portico on a Grand Hotel high over the water
with a first-floor porch the length of the lawn and
your blasted yuppie façade hides a kitchen under an atrium

its shelf of classical Greek busts inscribed with dramatic
trysts countered by classically proportioned nightlife
behind a domed courthouse goddess in lilac and laurel
and a red gown mast stripped in a storm of Vermont green
to such bare arms, bare feet now in decline

there was once money to be made behind Corinthian column
porticos on lawns high over the waters of the Grand Hotel
porch the length of *your yuppie façade* kitchen
atrium with classical busts and dramatic trysts
countered by dome nightlife courting a Greek goddess

in laurel and red gown stained glass, a Greek revival mansion
with four pillars and broken colonnade dividing a green lawn
from a tall hedge statuary in a gray-headed cemetery
the angel Aquarius, with a bare foot pointed to the stars
now intertwined with trees

(Ursula, Arctos of bear legs and bear paws)

reclines on a stone bench in stained glass statuary
in a gray-headed cemetery (Ursula, Arctos of bear legs
and bear paws) revives four pillars as the angel
Aquarius, with a bare foot pointed to the stars reclines
on stone bench broken colonnade dividing a green lawn

from a tall hedge now intertwined with trees
in stained glass statuary in a gray-headed cemetery

(Ursula, Arctos of bear legs and bear paws)

reclines on a stone bench with *no uprising of life within it*
this Greek revival mansion with four pillars
broken colonnade dividing a green lawn from a tall hedge

in stained glass the angel Aquarius, with a bare foot
pointed to stars now intertwined with trees
statuary in a gray-headed Greek revival mansion
with four pillars, the angel Aquarius now intertwined
with *no uprising of life within it* dividing a green lawn

35/

red maple on gray rock against
vertical tan stripes
the pooling and hill

* * *

blue-eyed moth on yellow chopstick folder
star lilies against horizontal green striation
Chinese river scene, the coin inscribed
from a tickle-free zone of "Dried Dark Plums"

red maple on gray rock against vertical tan stripes
pooling under a blue-eyed hill of moths
over another yellow river, the Chinese "Dried Dark Plums"
held aloft on scenic chopsticks or inscribed coins

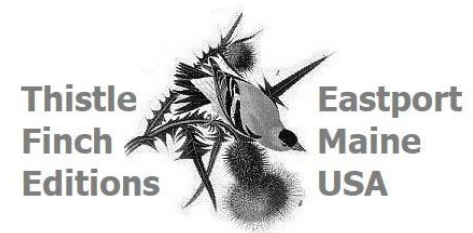
as folded red maple on gray rock against vertical tan
line up between the pooling and hill of star lilies
as horizontal green striation *from a tickle-free zone*
the blue-eyed river inscribed with yellow moths

as "Dried Dark Plums" are maple red on gray rock
against vertical tan striped pooling water buffalo work
in a wet field of chopsticks between star lilies open
against the blue-eyed horizon with its variations

as coins and moths inscribed in yellow Chinese
calligraphy, the *tickle-free zones become a river scene*
for a "Dried Dark Plums" holder of chopsticks
made from red maple in their tan stripes

as the gray rock against vertical pooling
toward the hill of star lilies and their horizontal
green striation *from a tickle-free zone*
water buffalo patiently work a field

JNANA HODSON



**Thistle
Finch
Editions**

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