

450. MERMAID

Mermaid
Siren song
Sea of longing
Artemis and Apollo
Those chaste warrior twins
Erect and full of promise
Doing battle
Promiscuously
Mark of the mermaid
Androgynous twins
Mother child father
Bound by law-loyalty fear
Twins separate
But fuse utterly
Spirit weeps
Still earth
Cannot be denied

July 2000

451. CHARISMA

You stalked me
All masculine femaleness
A predator
As I smiled wanly
Passive and detached
The objet d'art
All feminine maleness
Complimentary charismatics?
You betcha!

Reflecting self-love
Across a chimera idea
Barely sullied by touch
A pure imagining
Numinous aura
Perfection conceptualized

After Camille Paglia: *Sexual Personae*

26/7/2000

452. TWIN BREATH

My twin
Breathes the air
I exhale
And returns it to me
In song
An improbable gift
Drinking me down
Oxygenating my blood

Fluids pass between
These naughty twins
Wet, sticky, luxurious
Daemoniac too
On the rack
Gorgeous twin
Matching cell for cell
Transforming flesh
Into spirit
Twin longing to belong
Sharing breath
Already gone

3/8/2000

453. SIMONE

I sit reading love letters
In clumpy English
Transfixed and voyeuristic
A French woman
To her American poet
One-way traffic
Knowing the outcome

I sit thinking up love letters
Unwritten in Byron English
A musician to her improbable twin
Obsessed and narcissistic
One-way traffic
Pretending, not knowing the outcome

I sit silently with the future
Tearing out another page
A heart beating and belligerent
Holding my twin hand at night
Knowing the outcome is set

3/8/2000

454. LET ME

You let me writhe
You let me sing
You let me laugh
At the wondrous chaos
We bring

9/8/2000

455. IMPOSSIBLE SONG

I dream an impossible song
A melody unimaginably wrong
It sings in chordal embrace
That my skull may one day
Rest quietly on your breast

9/8/2000

456. UMBILICAL

You nourish me umbilically
Over the phone
And with foetal naivety
Or wisdom, I cannot tell
So I tend this doomed
Watery seed
And rejoice in its swell

9/8/2000

457. TANGLE

'A minute has many days'
And some days pass
In a wink or a smile
While others stretch out
In languorous memory
Or tight anticipation
For your body
Tangled and unwound
In mine

9/8/2000

458. FIRST REGRET

Regret
For the first time
Since your gear-stick love
Crushed out my despair
Without a care

Regret
Like other times
Or the worn self-denial
Pulling me
Back to a fig-leafed stance

Regret
At our crime complicit
And the sudden need
For less tumult
To further heal wounds
You brazenly staunched

Regret
Or fearing a return
Of the suffering
That is transparent
In friends' faces

Regret
And sadness too
Among your savage kisses
And a mutual need I sense
To move
Someplace better, healthier
For the first time

18/8/2000

459. HORNET MASSACRE

We plunder our organs
For meaning
We plunder our synapses
For truth
Lives lived in such brutal switch
Where love is as lonely
As blood

We send demons
As messengers
While angels glory
In torture
We grasp
Sweet sirens
With fingers cut off

9/8/2000

460. LOVE LIES

You said
'I can't imagine being domestic with you'
I smiled
We laughed
And wondered inside
Who imagined such a thing!

I said
'No-one will ever love you like I do'
You smiled
We laughed
And wondered inside
At the craziness of those stolen lines
I like so much

15/8/2000

461. CAPTIVE LAUGH

Sweet prisoner
What holds you firm?
Is that captivity so delicious?
Is freedom so frightening?

Temptress mirth
Your laugh
All envious escape
And I
Your parole officer
Willing to pardon all misdemeanor
Excepting guilt

Sweet, sweet captive
Jailed on the jagged slopes
Of Mytilini
I give you my sentence
For free
That I could
Laugh away
Your captivity

9/8/2000

462. RIFFING HEART

The memory of you
Lives in my fingers
Between the laughing
And the loving
It is well concealed there

I close my eyelids
And touch my face
And in that self-caress
Is (surprising) you
All passion and give
And riffing heart

15/8/2000

463. SLEIGHT OF HEART

You have your cake
And eat it too
My magician twin
So why so anxious?
Did I ask too much of you?
To accept what I give
Given at your behest

My superb juggler
I taste the acid fear
In mingling tongues
And nuzzling shyness
Each layer of cloth removed
Exposes even more shadows
Of dreamt impossibility
Sleight of heart

15/8/2000

464. AUTO EROTICA

I pick up the glass
And drink its skin
The water is pure
The skin is mine

11/9/2000

465. LOAN

You had me
On inter-library loan
You did not steal the book!
My dog-eared pages
Bear you fingerprint
And spit
And now
The due date expired
I return
Back to the shelf
Barcode swiped
Less musty, it's true
And I remember with a start
Don't got ahead of yourself
I am a library book
That's how it is
I'm for borrowing
Not keeping

12/9/2000

466. KIDNEY

There is a curdling
Of my kidneys
The twist and writhe
Of a silent organ
Nudging me
As I lie
All hypochondria
And mortal thoughts
All telephone calls
Spasms and retorts
There is a curdling
In my kidneys

15/9/2000

467. BOY LOVE

I love his room
The sheer chaos of it
Sheets and douna
All knotted and bed warm
Toys scattered like impulses
Anarchic and grand

I love his nocturnal migration
To my too big bed
And waking up
With his hard sleeping skull
Pressed into my spine
A foot in my crotch
His legs straight and taut
Plaited with mine

I adore how he awakens
Sometimes all slow and smoochy
Or else wondrously
Picking up a sentence
Where it left him
As if sleep was just
A fleeting interlude

2/10/2000

468. ARTEMIS

Remember Artemis
Walking a milky dusk
The stars magically
A multitude of twins
Foraging between
Sand and salty foam

Remember dear
Talking innocently
For perhaps
The first time
And the moon
Eavesdropping
As she always does
In the erotic night

Remember Artemis
That calm quickening
As your hand so slightly
Brushed against mine
In a moment of meaning
'Was that an accident?'
I was wondering
And smiling under the night's
Disguise
A Halloween moon

Remember Artemis
That crystalline moment
Shaped with love
A coherence
Precise, precious
And pregnant
Fertilised by us

1/11/2000

469. BLACK BEAUTY

Twenty-five years married
Slow learning
And comfort
Joined by lips
And fingertips
And faithful knowing
All fruitful unison
But something missing

Yearning
Came the black beauty
Glistening red
All tempest
And delight
Untamed and
Resistant
To my flight
A sultry secret
With seven sullen holes
Instilling the night
With jigs and reels
While the silver sonata
Wept out of sight

7/12/2000

470. SECOND STONE

In my thoughts
Like a diamond
Pert and hard
The second stone

10/12/2000

471. BELONGING

My name is belonging
Spirit of the land
Many coloured
Majestic and
All powerful

You obliterate
Under bitumen and towers
But I remain still
Patient as dust

Constructed civilisation
Pathetic toys
A sneeze or a sneer
From me
And we are back

You split the atom
I split my sides
You make antibiotic
I sing and mutate
You dam a river
I laugh a flood of tears
I am belonging
Fear and love
Dissolved and combined

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

472. BELONGING 2

My name is just belonging
Lonely spirit of this land
Every ceremony and ritual
Every breath and grain of sand

Since beginning of place and time
I have sung soaring above
Silencing your flimsy edifice
With echoing fire and flood

Build your mad towers of wealth
Mountains made to enthrall
To hide the face of belonging
My eyes see through them all

What is a paltry two hundred years
In my sweep and scheme of things
A fleck in the eye, an arrogance
A cliff-face where desperation clings

My name is just belonging
Lonely spirit of this land
Every ceremony and ritual
Every breath and grain of sand

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

473. BIELBAH'S SONG

Once we were proud warriors
Our spirits were high and free
Our laws were just
Our children clean
All harmonious liberty
And in all of us was me

Gather round true ancestors
Gather up the time
In all of us is me

Now we are cold and stricken
Plagued with strange disease
Gathered food laced with pain
Thunder with blood filled trees

Gather round true ancestors
Gather up the time
In all of us is me

So what choice do we have now?
But to stand up and make fight
In the end we all are dust
Let us rid our cosmos of this blight

Gather round true ancestors
Gather up the time
In all of us is me

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

474. PIONEERS' SONG

The legendary explorers
Gallant pioneers to a man
Enduring every hardship
To still this wanton land

Our finest sons we bred
Prosperity was our claim
With toil and strain and sweat
The rugged land we would tame

A gin or two we raped
Picaninny head we split
Brave bold pioneers
Set dogs onto the sick

The legendary explorers
Gallant pioneers to a man
Enduring every hardship
To tame this wanton land

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

475. PIONEERS' SONG 2

We are the pioneers
And our souls we did sell
We raped and cleared the land
Made every inch a living hell

We are the pioneers
We strained to dig the well
For mirth we poisoned flour
Wild vermin we did expel

We are the pioneers
With sweat we dug the track
Blood flowed down every road
In the war of the outback

We are the pioneers
Heathens won't block our way
Black night and bastard fear
We survive another day

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets* & Irine Vela: *Fatal Shore*

December 2000

476. SYLVESTER'S SONG

Oh Baulie, how could you do this?
Betray us to the marauding mob
They tried to kill me Baulie
My blood spattered on their club

They butchered my brother Baulie
Near our playtime dancing ground
I was left for dead, Oh Baulie
Too scared to make a sound

Baulie they raped my mother
Who baked the biscuits you did love
And my twelve-year-old sister Rachael
Then clubbed them into the mud

Where is forgiveness now Baulie?
Your crime against my race
When death and hate boiled over
My sweet brother's exhausted face

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

477. INHERITANCE

Babies are babies
As children are children
How can they comprehend
Grown-up hatred?
Whatever colour their hand

We can steal the children
Or bury the innocent
But when we mutilate childhood
Who is left to forgive?

Drunks beget sniffers
Murderers beget slaves
All the ravaged inheritors
From poisoned flour days

Children are scarred survivors
Amputated or clean
Innocent or listless
Holders of the scream

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

478. BIELBAH'S SONG 2

We are not victims
Though we be victimised
When the guns go still
And the white sheep die
We will still be
As we have always been

As our grasses through fire grow
Their poisons will become
A flickering memory
And we will then bury the sand

In this land of ours
White will turn to black
Their song will be our song
When we bury the sand

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

479. DUST MOTHERS

Oh dust mothers all
Ghosts of the land
The brutal memory
Haunts us all
Bury the sand

It nourishes us
The orgy of gore
Every custodial death
Every glue-sniffing child
Every bottle seeking solace
Bury the sand

Unable to say sorry
Or give a little back
Signs of a guilty heart
For a bullet in the back
Bury the sand

Dust mothers don't weep
Survival is strength
As thousands of footprints
Grind granite to dust
So with patience and trust
We bury the sand

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

480. GIN'S LAMENT

In every pale face
I see the eyes of my firstborn
Smiling and innocent
Body buried in sand

In every white face
I see horse nostrils flare
Gallop closer
All whooping and yelling

In every ashen face
I see her smile turn terrible
And the moment etched in time
When her face disappeared

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

481. LAMENT CHORUS

All wisdom is void
In the end
You murder us now
But the sand remains
Claiming rights
You are but
Souvenirs here
So we bury the sand
In your greed

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

482. STRANGE SONG

Blacks whisper around us
Strange song strange song
Foreboding in the night
Strange song strange song
A plague of locusts
A cyclone, a bushfire
A lightening strike
Strange song strange song

Furious nature
We fight to survive
In a godless landscape
Half crazed by heat
Encircled with language
We can never understand
While a bitch eats her pups
Strange song strange song

Eternal whisperings
Between sand creeping
Always present
Rarely seen
No matter how many dispersed
In the safety of hot sun
With the quickness of gun
Singing, moaning, singing
Singing us from this land
Strange song strange song

After Gordon Reid: *A Nest of Hornets*

December 2000

483. ΤΡΙΑΝΤΑΦΙΛΟ

ΤΡΙΑΝΤΑΦΙΛΟ

Woman of thirty petals
And sinewy, boyish grin
Of intuition
Or slight curiosity?
I wash you from me
But a stain remains
It is welcome
As you leave
For China
Where petals are drawn
And redrawn
Exquisitely

18/8/2003

484. UNSAID

The unsaid thing
Unsullied
Lipless
Restless
Picked up
And put away again
Daily
The thing
The only thing
Living
Dwelling
In the heart

After Nietzsche

19/8/2003

485. UNCONSCIOUS

Behind every
Eyelid
Simply waiting
Patient
As a tear

8/8/2004

486. DEATH CROSSED VIRGINS

Art and sex are similar
When you take a lover
You enter into a struggle
With all their past lovers
And all their future lovers
Death crossed virgins
Have a certain appeal

18/10/2004

487. AMBIGUITY

You make a glorious
Ambiguity
Between your eyes
And your hands
At one
Predator and prey
Other
Grateful and grey

18/10/2004

488. STACCATO

You sang my body true
While speaking
A crazed staccato
My surrender
Has seldom been
So pure

23/10/2004

489. BUDDHA FACE

If I put my face
In yours
Your features swirl
And if I squint
Just so
Like a drowning sailor
All past lovers
Flash before me
In kaleidoscopic flurry
This could be terror
But in your
Buddha face
It feels safe

23/10/2004

490. REMEMBRANCE

I remember now
It is B
You remind me of
The minx
With the mad hatter tale
Who I loved
Despite myself

23/10/2004

491. POLYAMOROUS

Polyamorous
Now there's a word
Not for the feint-hearted
Of glittering promise
Sharp as glass
The mirrors own image
Desire
Opens its other eye
And winks
Never quite dormant
Licking lips
Luscious
As possibilities expand
All beyond a care

25/10/2004

492. NOVELS

In novels
Characters
Make discoveries
About themselves
That change
How they live
Forever

In life
People
Repeat the
Same sad mistakes
And joys
Infinitely
In a blind
Blissful circle trap
Regardless of
The rare find
Occasionally
Made

26/10/2004

493. SHORTCUTS

No
Sex was the shortcut
And sex
Must remain
The other
Is a long, timid trek
Through polluted
Terrain

December 2004

494. DHARMA

I am still discovering things
I devour them all
I even sing them
Pantingly remaking
From memories of your
Bravura rendition
But nothing you left here
Is as deep and lovely
As the Dharma
So I return them
To you

22/11/2004

495. GRIND ON

Thank God
The body forgets
For the mind
Grinds on
A mill eternal
Turning empty husks
Into polished grain

26/11/2004

496. COCHINEAL

Words lie
And secrets
Are betrayed
With blood
Vermillion
Crimson
Cochineal
Red
Every denial
Every evasion
Has its transfused twin
All blushing
Fiery within

19/12/2004

497. CHRISTMAS 2004

Christmas 2004
A time for the rich
To pity the poor
Give a fluffy toy
Or a compassion badge
Then back to
The reluctant prison

23/12/2004

498. MARGINS

You are marginalised
I choose
To be on the margin
Spread between
Is the slippery
Ego

24/12/2004

499. GREAT MUSICIAN

The great musician
Who sang us
In his glory
Was tone-deaf
It seems

24/12/2004