

Of What Do Starfish Dream?

I was told that
Chopping off the arm of a starfish

Would create a new one.
So I did, waiting by the

Atlantic, saltwater waves
Igniting cellular regeneration.

At moonrise I was surprised-
A full-grown, blue starfish

Latched onto my foot like a barnacle.
The moon sighed its ghosts

And waves took her home.

I remember when you were all
Tattoos & cigarettes
For me-

Cherries and swallows inked on your skin
You knew how tattoos got me going
Especially on you.

How you used to light a Camel
With a devilish grin
And blow your smoke right at me

Maybe a few smoky kisses,
Sexy in your scally cap
While you'd snap inhale

Huge white balls of smoke
Popping out of your mouth,
Right back in,

God how I loved that,
And you knew how your smoking got me going-
Your smoking was always the sexiest.

In our little barn
You'd show off your new tattoos
Smiling like the sun.

So what happened to
The tattoos & cigarettes
We used to share?

The Robin Chirped at Midnight

The mosquito was sucking my blood

and I let her.

My heart was breaking
and I let her.

Floccinaucinihilipilification

I carry the runes of you in my pocket
Smoothed while recalling

Your blank walks

A wash of blackcurrant and
Holly in your hair

Wandering aimless by shorn clapboard
and storm kestrels overhead.

I think of your eyes
While watching Venus blink,
Tiny speck of green popping

Out of the witching hour's emptiness

Distracted by a sweet orb only daring to show itself
in blinking Morse code-

City firefly's shy hesitant glow
of phosphorescent luciferase
Impermanent tattoos in the humid air

Asphyxiated by the hum
of flowing electrons by wayward wings
Vintage and neon.

I sweep your edda into the hearth
Ashen mingling of myrrh
and incense sprinkles its cinnamon

Onto bare exposed brick.

The lightning-scarred tree
with its bullseye of char
Burned inside-out,
Cindered base,
Reminds me of our concatenated dreams.

I touch the ghost of you
Roaming the paths of King's Chapel
and Granary Burial Ground

Farsick and windtalking to yourself.

I still taste the ozone on your lips

After you rained all night.

I throw the bait of you into the water
and the sunfish of Northwood Lake nibble the worms
of your toes.

And I watch the sawing motion of your thoughts
on DVR over and over
Hearing the fibers tear

Knowing the damage of blades and friction

How your heart will always bear
All ninety stone
of Hunters Lodge.

From the Trials of Tituba Indian

(Taken directly from transcripts of the trials of Tituba, accused witch in the Salem Witch Trials. Tituba's testimony is in italics.)

I.

what is this appearance you see

sometimes it is like a hog and

*some times like a great dog
this appearance
shee saith
shee did
see 4 times*

what did it say to you

*the black dog said
serve me
but I said I am a fraid
he said if I did not he would doe worse to me*

what did you say to it

*I will serve you no longer
then he said he would hurt me
and then he lookes like a man and
threatens to hurt me
shee said that this man
had a yellow bird that kept with him
and he told me he had more
pretty things
that he would give me if I would
serve him*

what were these pretty things

*he did not
show me them*

what else have you seen

*two cats,
a red cat and
a black cat*

what did they say to you

*they said
serve me*

when did you see them

*Last night
and they said
serve me
but shee said I would not*

what service

*shee said
hurt the children*

II.

how did you go

*we ride upon stickes
and are there presently*

III.

what attendants hath Sarah good

*a yellow bird
and shee
would have given me one*

what meate did she give it

*it did suck her
between her fingers*

IV.

what hath Sarah Osburn

*yesterday shee had a thing
with a head like a woman
with 2 leggs and wings
Abigail williams that lives with her uncle
mr Parris said that shee did see*

*this same creature
and it turned into the shape of goode osburn*

what else have you seen with g osburn

*an other thing hairy
it goes upright
like a man
it hath only 2 leggs*

did you not see Sarah good upon elisebeth Hubbar last Saturday

*I did see her
set a wolfe upon her
to afflict her the persons
with this
maid did say that shee
did complain of a wolf*

*shee furder said
that shee
saw a cat with good
at another time*

what cloathes doth the man go in

*he goes in black clouthes
a tal man with
white hair
I thinke*

how doth the woman go

*in a white whood
and a black whood
with a tup knot*

V.

but w't did they Say unto you?

they tould me

*Serve him
& that was a good way;
that was the black dogge
I tould him I was afrayd,
he tould me he would be worse then to me.*

w't did you say to him after that?

*I answer I will Serve you noe Longer
he tould me
he would doe me hurt then.*

w't other Creatures have you seene

a bird

w't bird?

*a little
yellow
Bird.*

where doth itt keep?

*w'th the man whoe hath
pretty things
there besides.*

what other pretty things?

*he hath nott showed them [yet]
unto me, butt he s'd
he would show them me
tomorrow, and he tould me if I would
Serve him
I should have the Bird.*

w't other Creatures did you see?

*I saw 2 Catts, one
Red, another
black
as bigge as*

a little dogge.

w't did these Catts doe?

*I dont know; I have seen them
two tymes.*

w't did they say?

*thay say
serve them.*

when did you see them?

I saw them last night.

did they doe any hurt to you or threaten you?

*they
did
scratch me.*

VI.

have you Seen Good and osburne Ride upon a poule?

*yes & have
held fast by mee*

VII.

what sights did you see

*I see a man, a
dogge, a
hogge, & two
Catts a black and Red & the strange
monster was Osburne that I mentioned before
this was was the
hayry Imp. the man would
give itt to mee, but I would nott have itt.*