

In All Certain Terms

The dawn lit us with red
and its fiery kiss, burning bare,
made love in our eyes

What was will always be true
We, the fuse and the flame

But just as the sun rises, night falls
with no grace, no ease,
burning our last

A shudder, then smoke,
came breathless and black
You with her, I without,
treading blind in night's icy folds

Go. With a weary mind and sore eyes dried,
Go. With no fears and no courage to name.

"Goodbye" hangs heavy with the heart of our past
Don't look up when we drown at last

In My Eyes

The sky shudders,
breathing thick and gray
With a gentle hand, the somber light lifts my eyes
and I wake heavy as the day
In every cloud, each drop of rain,
the sky breaths gently, crying to me

A gesture, a sigh
 I see it, I believe it
 But the sky knows none of this
 It knows nothing
 There is only me

"So May You All"

Inspired by John Gardner's *Grendel*

Gold

Dawning jewel -
 tenderly, the petals of day opened in rosy embrace
 I reveled here - a buck in spring heat,
 a hawk soaring through the tulip hues
 From their voices, I learned my own strength
 and my heart sang to the morning
 Blessed! - they praised, they sang - and this was a hero's world

In the beginning, I began -
 broad, strong, and fair -
 the sight to see in a world of white
 I thrived - drinker of poisons light and sweet,
 champion of sword, and axe, and spear -
 And later, I loved -
 she, a gentle breeze on the flames, a smolder sweet and dark as dusk -
 she was the world made in one -
 and I, was its keeper

Beneath its vast blue veil - clutching the endless horizon -
 the world held ventures too few, passions too weak
 And fire burns with no guide - scourging its own path
 So it was - I was - whet with red

With a flickering heart, but burning pride,
I passed the time of a thousand deaths -
Only the land was left - stains torn from its white sheen -
Done, gone, silent
All but one, calling to me with bloody patience -
The last of my trials to glory

Jerkin and steel wound me -
Shielding my gasps and pounding heart
Ash and blood spat in my eyes - my memories burned in the deep
Gripping the doorframe, I pulled myself away,
gazing with sunlit eyes into the black,
Then caught a last brush of warmth
Her lips sang so sweet

I treaded blue flood and mottled wood -
My feet stepped in familiar rhythm,
apace torn body and burning wreckage -
Men and children, mothers and warriors -
fearless now of the danger they left me

Night grew with the passing days -
frigid and cold, it clutched each breath
Night it was, too, when my feet at last stopped

With a narrow gaze, I traced a cavernous, gray form -
Silver!
Like moon-light, it gleamed from the dark -
my eyes swam black with a start

Rings of blue and yellow, two vast eyes bore me through -
I climbed to the pit, blade wheezing in the icy air

Dark stone crashed to my feet -

She swam like a shadow,
Blue moonlight lit her joyless smile and her body, bare
the beauty and my blade, merciless -
dancing viciously

Her lips, slashed wide, curled gleefully
Her fingers dripped with black

A hum filled the cavern -
shaking with vehemence
My knees folded - trembling with my scream -
But she stood still, tall in my wheeling eyes -
"What you were, so you'll become..."

Like smoke, her song reached to me - my heart heaved
"Embrace yourself and crawl..."
Panic jolted my limbs,
"...animal..."
Screeches cold and dry rent the air -
"...baseless - senseless - and free."
Flames over my skin and I broke, tearing into the night

Gray
the sky weighed upon me -
the ground struck me under foot
My lungs heaved with wailing fear
Hot, freezing blood wet my path

I shirked from the daylight,
resolved my emptiness - fleeing -
weeping in hot streams

But the night was kind - with distant, gleaming eyes -
and covered my depravity with silent, gelid hands

Yellow

White

The mist in my eyes grew thin in the heat
Mountain peaks, royal and white -
grass whispering underfoot -
the stars gazed on this familiar place,
shuddering my legs to a halt

Horror struck the wind from me -
Home, I saw, but home, I saw,
to thin pale beasts - dancing naked, howling
I scampered into a surviving tent - sucking air wildly,
Clawing at my hip for my crimson friend

I wheeled to a gasp at my ear -
empty-handed, I clawed blindly, feral -
fed by the sight of her black locks and wild eyes
Revenge howled coarsely from my throat

Beholding her ruin, I grinned bloody - our gazes met -
Pink and white skin, brown eyes to mine
Dread froze my breath - she whimpered her fright softly,
Seizing my memory -
Those wide, sweet eyes - like rain, like flame and wind -
my rock

Up-lifting her limp form - we looked to one another,
terrified in a moment, familiar in the next -
Streaming red, her fingers grasped my shoulders -
in embrace, as many times before

She shuddered her death beneath my numb lips

Black as pitch, the evening fell, to stretch and swallow us whole -
My despair and rampage, in endless cycle - tore the earth -
Fearful, streaming eyes sought vengeance with sightless grief
No one survived the night
Not even I

There is a time when time ceases to matter
There is only a song -
the earth hums and trees chuckle in the wind -
there is the rain sighing, the roaring Sun -
and Mother's song, high in the night

In the veins of age, there is no urgency, no time

I do not wait, but I am patient -
A listener and a watcher at the ends of the earth, hidden in a sunless crevice -
silent -
guardian only to myself and a pale memory,
brown eyes long-closed
We two are eternal, kept side-by-side -
as Mother's song calls

It was nothing, it was endless, and the song was a rhythm soothing to my ears
Were I to turn from it -
There is something I would remember, but I cannot
I cannot

