

Sixfold

May 2021 Poetry

ARS GRATIA ARTIS

Poems:

Reflections

The Beginning of the End of the Beginning

Until the End

Before the ER

Don't Cry

Reflections

I remember sitting on the beach
My back on a coconut tree
Father swam so far, he became a dot on the horizon
And Bobbi went with him
My best friend, my canine companion
Paddling by his side
Determined to keep up, like a racer going for a win
Mother can't swim
She just walked in the ocean, with waves licking her waist
My younger brother was there too
I can't recall what he was doing
He was wearing shorts
We both had towels
So I guess he swam
Such a tease my brain
It lets me taste the past, but never serves me a full meal
Bits as sweet as mangoes
Others as sour as Brussels sprouts
Moments in time
Distorted by time
Reflections on a river
I have a memory of sitting on a beach
My back on a coconut tree
Smelling the salt
Feeling the grains
Hearing the song of wind and sea
I was a boy then, didn't know a thing, so innocent
And Bobbi was still with me

The Beginning of the End of the Beginning

Jackals believe in monogamy too
So do wolves, eagles, porcupines, seahorses—a whole host of animals
They meet
They flirt
They mate
They stay together, for as long as they both live
I don't believe in love

How did she smash through my wall?
What happened to my impenetrable defense?
Where are my soldiers?
What happened to my men?
Every time I look at her they run away
When she touches me I crumble
She has conquered me

Tomorrow, my world will end
I'll be married
Tomorrow, my life will end
Officially
I'll be married
Tomorrow, half of me will belong to someone else
I'll be married
Tomorrow, I'll be wed to the one I love
We'll be locked into a future together
For better or worse—or worse
We'll be married

She's the flowers in my field of dreams

Until the End

Raindrops crashing on my head
Freezing water, numb
Ear drums beating
Yelling
Praying
Begging
Help!
Voice fading out
Hazy eyes
Weakening, soon I'm going to die
Fight on, live for as long as I got?
No, why, only losers wish they had more time?
Let go, no sense fighting Death
Yes, now sink
Let the water rise
Light dims
No, surface, must live, swim, can't let sleep begin
So tired
Shaken by the waves
Strange, storm sounds like words
Water looks down at me, curls, puts me under
It's over
It won't let me win
Freed air rises to the ocean's skin
Still have strength
In deep, but oxygen is low
One last go, swim up calm, no fear, save my air, hope
Words again?
Brain is shutting down, releasing chemicals to smooth the transition to nothingness?
Angels greeting me?
Or are they offering support?
Doesn't matter, stay afloat as long I can
A positive attitude until the end

Before the ER

I'd rather be lying on a bed of snakes
My head resting on a pillow of rusted nails
Eyes wide open, I see nothing
I scream, no sound
I'm falling?
Floating?
Going up and away?
Moving sideways?
Standing still?
I don't know
No point of reference, no time
Just blackness all around me
It engulfs me, blinds me, everything is black
There's nothing, no light, nothing solid

I was six or seven
Living with my parents in an apartment in Lyon
I remember I locked myself in an old refrigerator on the ground floor
Playing Hide & Seek with friends
The fridge was in a storage room
The lights were off
The air was stale
Perfect hiding spot
Won the game, wasn't found for a while, even by grownups
The darkness in that refrigerator was brighter than this
The silence there was louder than this
And I still felt a part of the world

What is this emptiness, this bottomless pit, this starless universe?
Where am I?
If I'm dead, where's the light, the brilliant tunnel?
If I'm not good enough, where are the demons, the lost souls, the Devil?
I want out!
I'm trapped in a fucking color

Don't Cry

If my tomorrow never comes
If I should fly up to heaven's gate
Before this day or night is done
Then on a cloud I'll sit and wait
While a billion souls in line
Take baby steps toward the saint
While they chatter to pass the time
I'll find a way to guide the fates
So worry never calls your number
And pain never sees your face
I'll make sure your smile is a fixture
On any picture you will grace
I'll slow down your flow of sand
And when I'm finally caught I'll say
I did it for love
Then I'll march back to my spot
I'll sit
And with watchful eyes, I'll wait
And when the angels give you greetings
And they wing you to this place
Where the lost are found
From the sky to the ground
I'll light you into my embrace