
KAREN GARTHE

The Banjo Clock



University of California Press Berkeley Los Angeles London

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To my champion

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*'The door opens,' says the language that doesn't say
'someone opens the door.' Is it mother, is it cat, is
it wolf, is it you?*

HÉLÈNE CIXOUS

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The Banjo Clock

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Fanta grape

I was tasting the Molotov vapor
wick-soaked gasoline
furthering its career
hoisted to meet the numb cold permanently
jingling coins and oily paper money
lasting outlasting debris
smacking my tongue to its tusks
dipped in a *Fanta grape*
thumbed at the top shaking

Rid the kitchen

What'll I do to repair the mines and files of a breach of a hundred anemic fadings
 features rattled
 and so harmed
warehouse motes huddles I sang to
cold blood twangy raw ends spit of crazy rolled over
 the lot
 the warehouse row of shoes
 I found
 the suicide on the desk
& the contraption I know as the only thing to be awed by
due diligence

Ikebana

Another sleeping limo driver and too much guessy

Lowdown

Overnaming, hopping the magnification of any resemblance to 100%

The way “call another boom delivery” costs more than itself

A biding sparkle, wry barbell maintenance

Finally, to add the *craquelure* of beauteous scarring

A small common tool that comes into clear view without its task and

The motion of new utility

Gorge

Baleen torqued hipped Gorge

turned in drying stiffening

working up to its crevasse

Looming

rippled blues

of what to feed the fathoms but take one's time

dark passes

gimps on clever

recedes as from out-of-style consciousness, out-of-style rescue

scarlet enmities/pieties cruise

This, your playmate

This, your fill

of plebiscites whiskered to yello age

plump

rosy permanents

stun these sharpshooters

this wall with its crevasse

Ink Runs

Ink Run *damn ink*
with its bit-play on startle the temporary lease curls
its glycerin, its fancy quiver bears struggles, repeat: *struggles*
down quibbling sludge eddies and mercury bumps
transport warmed from holding the quiet, repeat
The Quiet sinking down moves on

REHAB (we want grace walls)

Something to it, a line to start rehab and democratize the body's
frail thrashings
waterslapping deletions
This skyline's Beijing's dovecote but destination *Song of America Cartoon*
A wide-eyed midge,
the heroine's flight to restore
bulging Popeye, coy Betty mincing her pinpoints
shrugging
Oh! Oh! What do we want?
to the distance that quits her as she'll quit others

*Crescendo: I got a message from my love in the ocean, there in the water
particled by sound*
a line to start the journey beach-cheap . . . Beijing-style
Towers
Tiles
Totems

To haul frail deletions, bedside adorables as kittens sweet in their buttons
to the monstrous frail
Tenderize their water
And their air
the Future Gates
the iron dollops of *We want grace walls*
easy maintenance

National sky

far spicy arithmetic, petals of
Sugar in the coffee day
rasher
of national sky, yellowing dates hang their chits in atmosphere
zone the yellowing
news and debris
shrimp tin in the sink
a mug of memorabilia's
pinless grenade
more ash than saying THE FOG IN A BLEND OF SIMPLES escalating fugue
not a cloying phobic or a sad brown nettle
just the hustle of weightless
furrowing thru tinkling empties, clank of a full can
Trying
Managing
wiles grayed down from an unseen flipping point
pivot the speaker
in maize more green than stalwart
more
innocently stalled
and far more breached and dismayed

Buckle up, Sweetie

glory wreathes, flutes

to Corinthian foliage, the heavy tops of stone

Who is crying

and holding her eyes?

Whose impervious listens? Stick tables and chairs bite gravel

*Would Harry talk to Jane if
she didn't have money? Whose della Robbia,
whose travertine Brahms
demotic
double-teams the gorgeous transvestite?*

Buckle up, Sweetie

and keep a stable chronology

the demonstrative kindness of elderly shut

night

figments, and early modes of play

Piranesi
under
The Keystone of A

You must feel warmed by Helen's small fires by inscription as vine and

Episode Fragments

You must converse in a niche to the doll's effigy

By Helen's you must feel warmly a pillow decanting widow tea drops

Pale for the linen the sky pushed formally jellies on

Armies surrounding the largo base and Piranesi numbering the plates

The wedding cake tier undoing

Doorways arbors

Augustan seizures mounds gnawed filigree and bricksworn sibilant hours

Walk the lion scourge precisely

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