

# Poems for Lili

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Like a cup of tea  
overflowing

she keeps going places  
unexpected  
beyond will and power

drawing silhouettes  
of sweet fragrance  
on the white morning

and I can't help but clutch  
at the burning tablecloth

again and again

I drape my heart  
like a make-believe ghost  
and keep going places  
unexpected

haunting every cup of tea  
with a trembling face

Without a thought  
you hand me a second jar

Without a thought  
I open it and you smile  
in profile  
at this intimacy  
like a wife

I wish we were them  
hidden in plain sight

secret delights  
that can touch  
and be open  
without a thought

Among the guests  
beaming and laughing  
at brilliant jokes

we share a drink  
with two ice cubes

Side by side  
complicit and beautiful

reflecting the sunlight

fatal icebergs  
always  
float in a world of silence

always  
shortchange the suns  
ninety percent

below the surface

Her dangling arms  
abandoned to the wind  
like lianas

gently beat  
to the rhythm of her steps

oblivious to the choir  
of the forest around us  
whispering

staring  
at the divine pendulums

waiting for a sign

as I do

know the wild deer  
invisible yet so close

Hear its deep chest  
darkly drumming  
an untamed song

about you

What a waste  
I tell myself

This whole bread  
stale  
which you forgot  
at the back of the cupboard

I remember the loaf  
warm and tender  
like a promise  
of young love

and

— Let's make French toasts!  
you say

When you go through my lines  
with me

sometimes  
I slip in my own words  
and you want to slip too

with me

a blank page



In this waltz  
of oblivion  
and regrets

I step forwards  
and I forget  
all the lessons  
I swore to remember

You step backwards  
and you regret  
learning so much  
about me

Come

The third beat  
is not here yet  
we don't have to repeat  
the same mistakes

spinning  
against each other

Let us stand still  
like that afternoon  
in the pouring rain  
when I warmed you  
in my arms

Blinded

you guide my hands  
to the clear waters  
of the fountain

Thirsty

from your lips  
the gulp  
eclipses the sun

Away

birch trees  
bathed  
in warm sunlight

Close

your white fingers  
combing  
your golden hair

You used to hide in my books  
like in crannies and nooks

I would find you in Neruda  
sieving my favourite pages  
for a bit of my soul

But metaphors whispered  
in ways I could not  
in ways I dared not

until I found a curl of hair  
you left in a margin

A prod to the brass spring  
suddenly  
has my heart palpitating  
like a broken watch

Bent over those pages  
on the corner of a table  
the words fade to white  
like a film overexposed  
to the halo of your blond hair

only leaving behind  
the offbeat heart  
of a blind man

Tonight  
you open for me  
an alchemy book

Flickering  
by the oil lamp  
the mute book speaks  
in crucibles and symbols

of wild roses blooming  
on lovers' grave

of a split pomegranate  
under a full moon

of bellows sighing  
over furnace anew

of the mystical union  
of water and fire

of the celestial geography  
of your beauty spots

a secret zodiac for all senses  
on your body of soft amber  
where I die and am reborn

Do you remember  
how we used to play  
winter in spring?

You would furrow my hair  
with the tip of your tongue  
and the fields would shiver  
under the plough

I would sit behind you  
and embrace you like a coat  
my breath sending a frisson  
down your spine

I would pretend to sled  
my hands on your waist  
and your nervous laughter  
would melt my heart

As exhausted as the day  
you would fall back on me  
and our breaths like geysers  
meet the night immense  
and become one silence

Once  
through a window  
of the log cabin  
at dawn

we caught  
the shivering world  
transfixed  
watching its reflection  
in the dew

In a blink  
the round mirrors  
of iridescent water  
had formed  
a boundless kaleidoscope  
and showed each other

your dreamy eyes  
and vision wide

and wondered

Already the avid hour  
swallows  
the shores of the world

Towards the horizon  
shadows pursue whispers  
lost amongst the graves  
along the walls

From his skull  
the poet sees everywhere  
ink flooding him

Yet you arise  
in the still second  
illuminating the doorway  
of my vault

your bright face  
smiling down on me  
simple and elegant  
like a blade

In a sarabande  
you seem to say  
come outside  
in the fields of blue

and let your heart  
slowly beat the drum  
of another day

let this long night  
surprise you  
with a blue moon



The dying day shrinks  
between the clouds  
and at my feet  
the rain starts drawing  
mirrors in the mud

until darkness drowns  
the match of eloquence  
and needles start piercing  
the firmament  
in suns uncountable

They blink leagues away  
like you used to

when you stretched over me  
like a constellation  
and kissed me distantly

Now on my knees  
my lips still reach for the stars  
but the gulp is dirty water