

# Poems

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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 tainted 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

Late among the guests  
beaming and laughing  
at brilliant jokes

we share one last drink  
with two ice cubes

Side by side  
complicit and beautiful  
reflecting the moonlight

fatal icebergs  
always  
float in a world of silence

always  
shortchange the stars  
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



Away

birch trees  
bathed  
in warm sunlight

Close

your white fingers  
combing  
your golden hair

Blinded

you guide my hands  
to the clear waters  
of the fountain

Thirsty

from your lips  
the gulp  
eclipses the sun

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

I would find you in Neruda  
sieving my favourite pages  
for a nugget 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

Suddenly

a prod to the brass spring  
sends 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

By the oil lamp  
flickering  
the mute book speaks  
in crucibles and symbols

of wild roses blooming  
on a lover's grave

of a split pomegranate  
under two half moons

of bellows sighing  
over furnace anew

of the mystical kiss  
of water and fire

of the geography  
of 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 summer?

You would furrow my hair  
with the tip of your tongue  
and the field 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 fall back on me  
and our breaths like geysers  
ascend to the starry night

slowly spinning  
around our cold noses  
against each other  
in the equator of my arms  
around you

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 the 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 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

Quietly set against the light  
you are perfectly framed

I don't care what they think  
about the optics of love  
about the perfect shot  
at wild happiness

Like a forest  
leaning against the twilight

you harbour within yourself  
a multitude of lives  
that murmur darkly like one  
and suddenly go quiet  
whenever someone laughs

Slowly I dare a hand  
to your black hair  
shadow amongst shadows

But you are startled by my eyes  
like those of a silent film actor  
in a close-up

Caught in my headlights  
this magnificent soul of yours  
hesitates before flitting away

leaving me in awe

pupils dilated  
quietly peering into your night



The hinterland  
suddenly  
met a rising tide

in my brimming eyes

a painting by Turner  
of ripped curtains of mist  
behind an old boat  
tugged to her last berth

to be broken up

The flowing waters  
also washed a raft  
ashore

in your overcast eyelines

wrecked like promises  
lying quietly at the bottom  
of some Black Sea  
— pristine and haunting

yet better off than broken up

you heard the wind  
moaning in search  
of faraway sails

In your secret garden  
every morning  
you prune the rosebushes

like the many odd lives  
within you that ask  
something always refused

You keep saying to them

*If I listen to you  
we would become ordinary  
and who would love us then*

Of those souls in you  
only one sees all  
and a myriad whispers

But one sometime  
is overlooked  
and blooms at night  
and makes you divine  
inspite of yourself

before fliting away  
in the morning  
like a dream  
cut short