

## The Frolic

Current 93

I take your hand  
We walk towards where the roses once grew

I lie back in the grass and dream of how it once was  
The rubbishstrewn streets  
Riperising smell of gutters and rain  
The children abandoned  
Mother recalls child in pool  
What is that that lies? deadchilddead  
I have such nightmares and you're all in all of them  
It's worse than you or I can ever know

On the edge of the clouds we crouch  
We smile and spit  
The pool of saliva carrascates below our feet  
It shifts  
Children with knives begin to rise from it  
They laugh and blow kisses at the moon

We think it's the rain  
I see a bird move onto the table in my garden  
It's beak scoops up the seeds  
The green of the grass and the blue of the sky  
Are immense and terrifying  
Everything seems so close  
So very very close  
Should a storm come  
Should a storm break and halo all around us  
As some savage and blind god  
Jerking his hands out to us  
The birds drop all around us

I walk into the altar room  
All the buddhas are smashed there  
Avalokitesvara's hundred faces lie shattered  
I have done this  
I walk to the makeshift redbrick altar a hundred years ago  
There is a small brass image there  
I have built this  
The red and black ants mill around  
Unknown journeys  
I take my lighter and torch them  
I take my lighter and torch them  
I weep, I weep  
The ants scatter or writhe  
I take my lighter and torch them torch them  
I have done this  
I am surrounded by butterflies  
The chid's legs lay smashed  
Please pray for him she says to me  
Too late  
Alas, oh so too late

I see the twinkling stars  
I drop a photograph  
I bend to pick it up  
My heart leaps as I see your face

Stare up at me from the paper  
As if still alive on this earth  
When I return my eyes to the stars  
They gathered  
They pucker  
And are blind  
And are blind

So lost are we  
Oh what have I become  
I have become that I hate  
I have become that I shall say no

The bird is dead now alas

A voice whispers to me  
And says nothing nothing  
There is nothing

I look to my right and see her face again  
And again the world disappears

And all fall down  
All fall down  
All fall down I all fall down  
All fall down I all fall down  
We all fall down  
We all fall down