



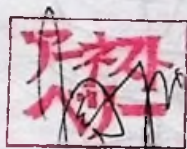
HAIKU

*Green Tea  
& Sushi*

*Ernest J Berry*



HAIKU  
*Green Tea*  
*& Sushi*



*Ernest J Berry*

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by Prisma Print for  
Ernest J Berry

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Born in Christchurch in 1929, Ernest Berry has an international reputation as a haiku poet.

After retiring from business, he spent ten years in Mexico where he originated brief three-line verses which he called *vertizontals*. He later discovered haiku, a genre so similar to his invented verse that he switched focus and has been a committed haiku writer ever since.

Ernest has twice judged the annual NZ Poetry Society contest and is a Life Member of both the British Haiku Society and the NZ Poetry Society. He features in anthologies worldwide and has been translated into numerous languages.

Two of his haiku have been sculpted onto boulders on the Haiku Walk in Katikati, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

As part of a Millennium project for Marlborough District Council, Ernest was asked to provide a haiku for a sculpture in Bythell Place, Blenheim, New Zealand.

*river of life  
set in flowing stone  
a new millennium*



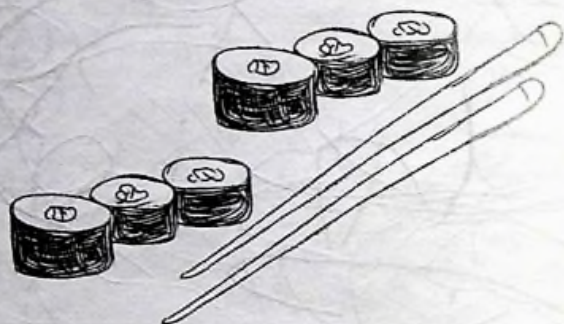
# Author's Note

Every haiku in this book has won or been placed in some international competition. Some have appeared (often in slightly different form) in the journals: *Frog pond*, *Modern Haiku*, *windrift*, *Haiku Headlines*, *haiku sounds*, *hobo*, *Haiku Presence*, *Haiku Spirit*, *Azami*, *Manawa*, *Mariposa*, *paper wasp*, *enigma haiku*, *Blithe Spirit*, *still*, *penumbra*, *tundra*, *HI*, *White Lotus*, and *Mirrors*, as well as in many anthologies.

The author welcomes any feedback here:

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秋

Autumn





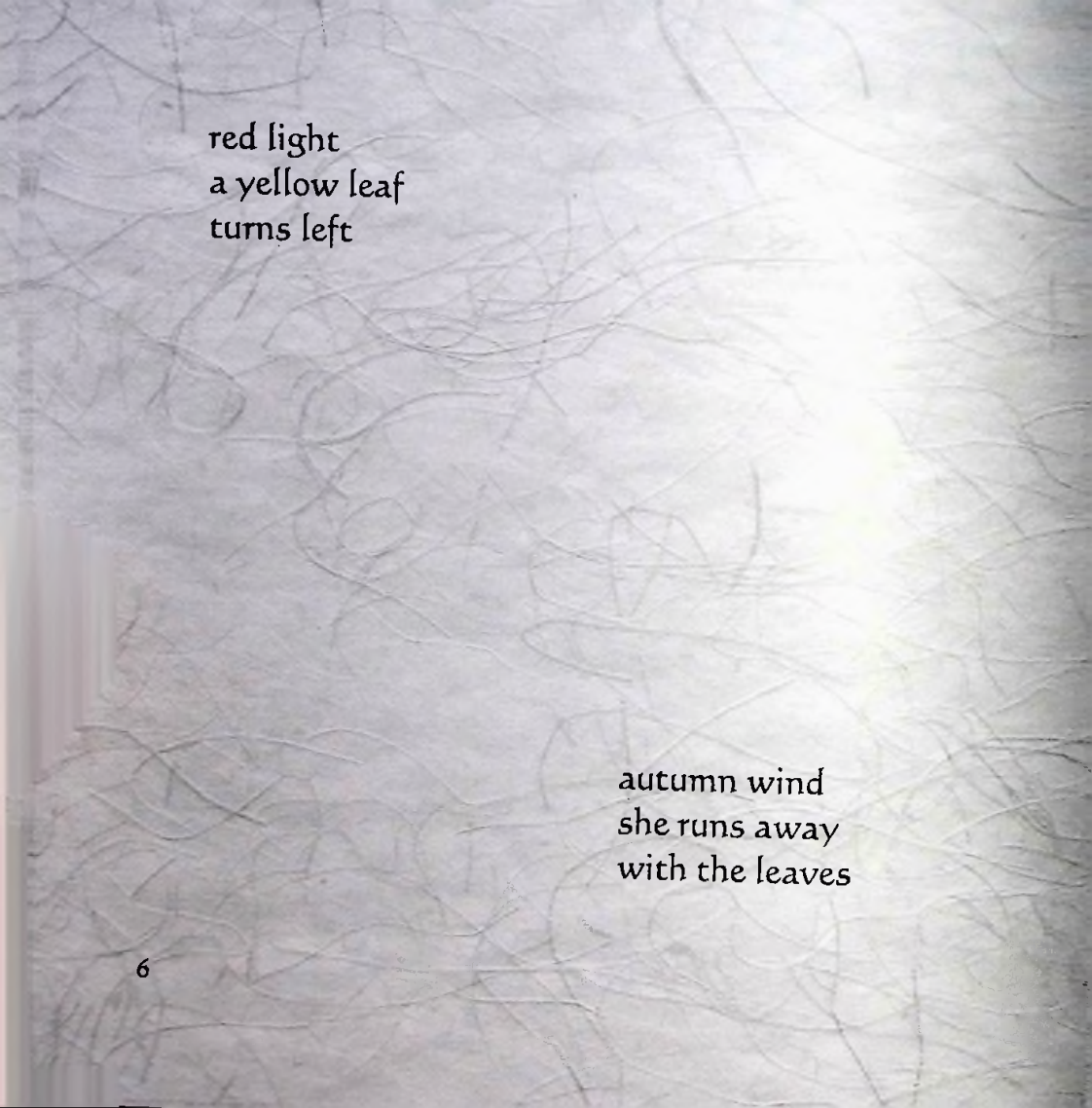
LA Airport  
an autumn wind stirs  
her paper lei

plum harvest  
dusk lined up  
in jars

autumn stillness the dead wooden talk<sup>h</sup>s

autumn dusk  
folding unfolding  
old love letters

autumn night  
firelight draws in  
the walls



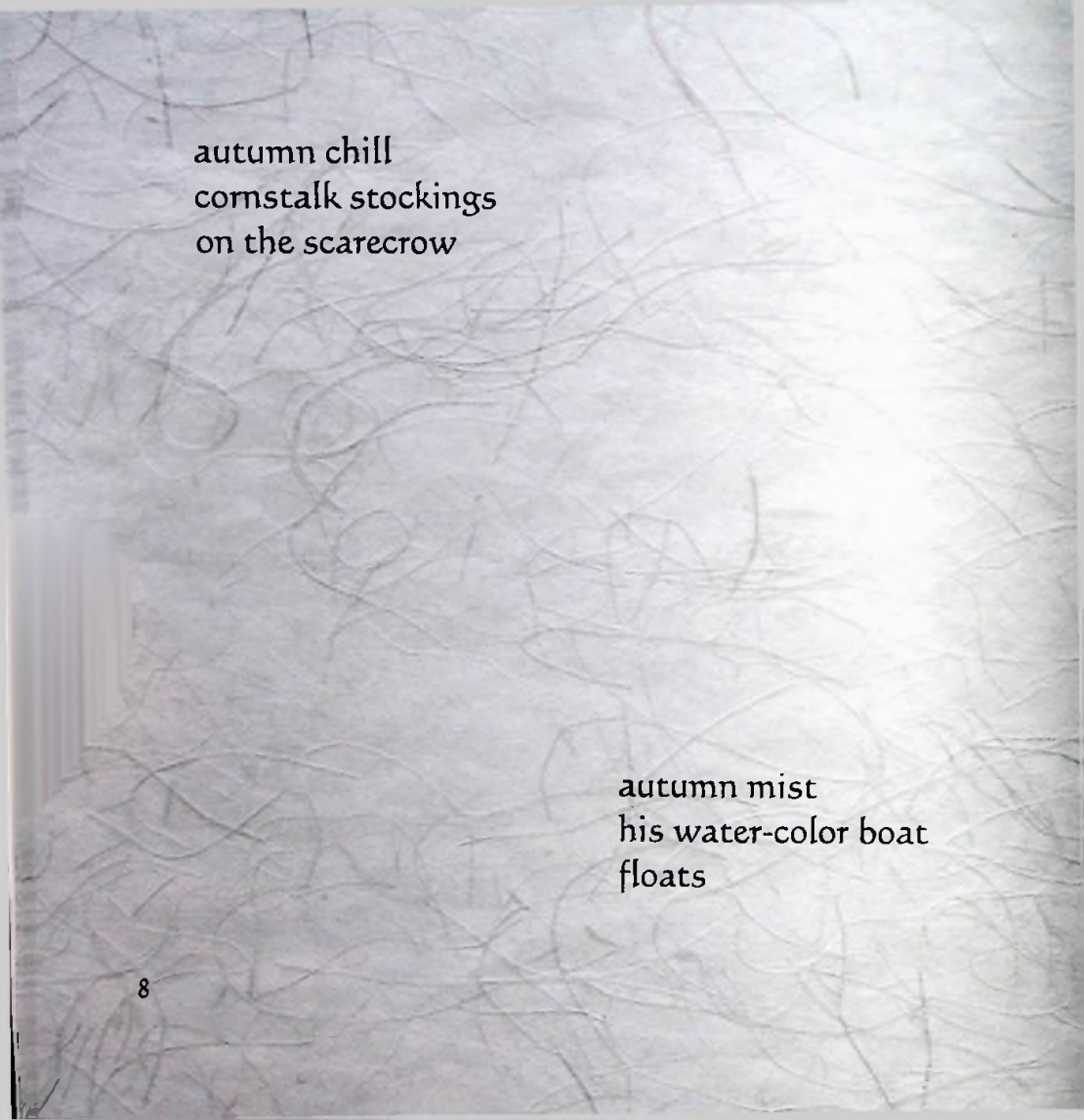
red light  
a yellow leaf  
turns left

autumn wind  
she runs away  
with the leaves



autumn chill  
the windowsill tomato  
still warm

autumn leaves  
the names of the dead  
sink deeper



autumn chill  
cornstalk stockings  
on the scarecrow

autumn mist  
his water-color boat  
floats

autumn concert another encore of coughs

early fall  
the evening star  
on the lawn

early fall  
between thumb & forefinger  
a small forest



autumn

i turn off the radio  
to listen



冬

Winter





winter afternoon  
the porch icicle  
lit from within

sunset  
bluegum smoke  
colours the snow

moonlit frost  
nothing stirs  
the silence

long winter night  
the cabbage trees  
first up

a swoosh of wings  
and the winter willow's  
fully glad

snowed in  
this frothy cappuccino  
too hot to drink


winter night  
a power outage brightens  
the Pleiades

overnight snow  
in the village cemetery  
one big family



overnight snow  
a leaf-covered lane  
leads me home

icicle  
another star drips  
from the lintel




first frost  
she ladles mist  
from the pot

winter solstice  
a flock of crows  
turns over

winter  
the big dipper  
in the well

snowgeese  
the frozen river  
creaks



winter garden  
a passing lantern  
colors the buds

early frost  
the fragrance of pine  
on fire



cold night  
my hot tub  
full of stars

floral sheets  
beside me  
winter sun

shortest day  
i write a long letter  
to me

early winter  
we take the last leaf  
from the table

virgin snow  
her woven landscape  
of hedgerows

one toheroa  
over the limit  
low winter moon

razor wire the weight of a snowflake



august mist  
the magnificence  
of thought

melting snow  
the sound of my shovel  
falling over



春

Spring





spring  
scything reeds  
the blade sings

water spider  
the spring sun  
goes straight through

early spring  
still the heron's  
frozen stare

hospice  
a hint of spring  
in his window box

spring growth stepping stones to nowhere

sunshower  
the flowering  
of umbrellas

spring ...  
a little fish emerges  
from a cloud

spring growth  
this lonesome track  
gets lost



spring dawn  
pine needles dripping  
the night away

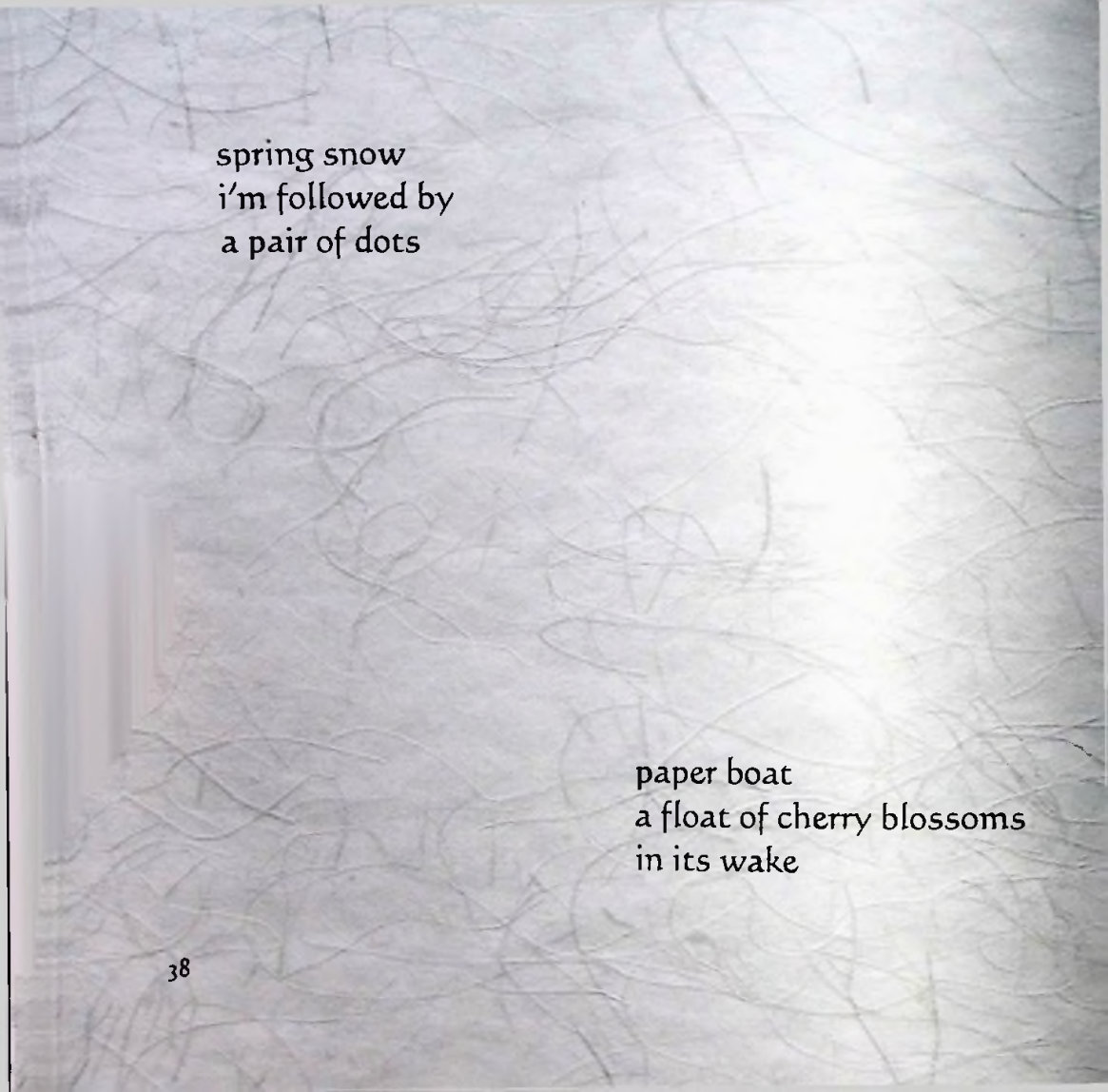
spring rain  
the chameleon busy  
being green

spring cleaning  
i find that Parker pen  
he pinched

spring break  
a kayak glides by  
on a cadillac

cherry blossoms  
on fujiana  
who cares

spring  
a hint of narcissus  
in the men's room




spring snow  
i'm followed by  
a pair of dots

paper boat  
a float of cherry blossoms  
in its wake



spring break  
a frangipani petal  
from her lei

passing truck  
another cherry petal  
in her hair



plum blossoms  
lovers looking  
at each other

building site  
his bulldozer stops  
for a blossom

empty garden  
next-door's camellias  
in full bloom

spring the cat flattens





夏

Summer



desert moon  
crows on the joshua tree  
going bronze

donation box  
how quietly  
the summer rain

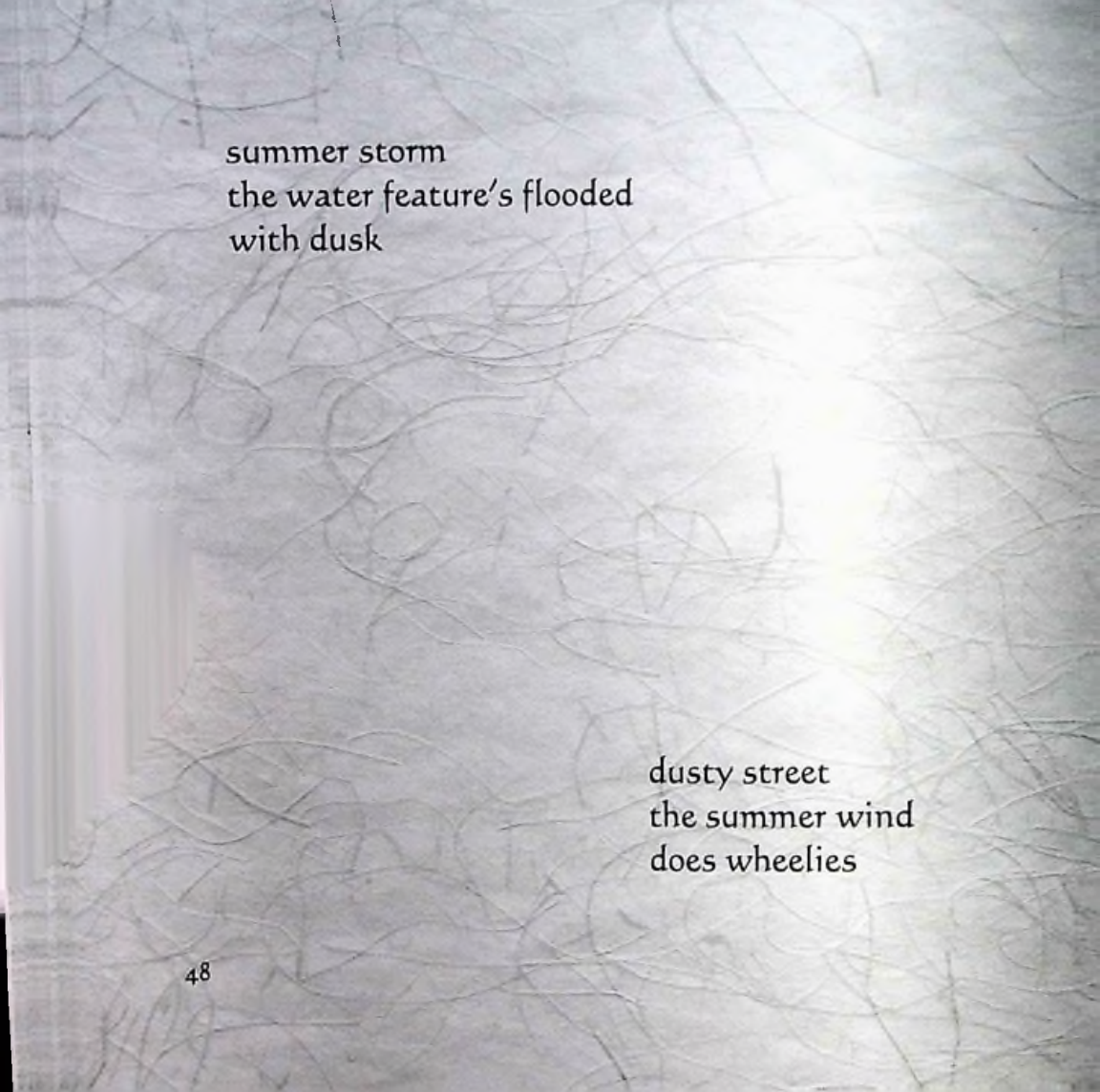
summer funeral  
they dress for the service  
in winter shades

mid-summer haze  
the smell of new-mown hay  
a drifter in town



mother's parasol  
I unfold the dust  
of other summers

heat wave -  
the highland meadow sizzles  
with cicadas



summer storm  
the water feature's flooded  
with dusk

dusty street  
the summer wind  
does wheelies

summer wind  
another cicada husk  
under the door

trumpet flower  
the deepening hummm  
of summer

snake skin  
my Indian summer  
slips away



summer  
her golden retriever  
rolls in it

summer house  
shades of rust  
on my spade

daylight saving  
one table daisy  
stays open

summer  
past its use-by  
mulled wine

midsummer  
under a leaf  
hidden from

mulberry wine  
not one drop left  
of summer





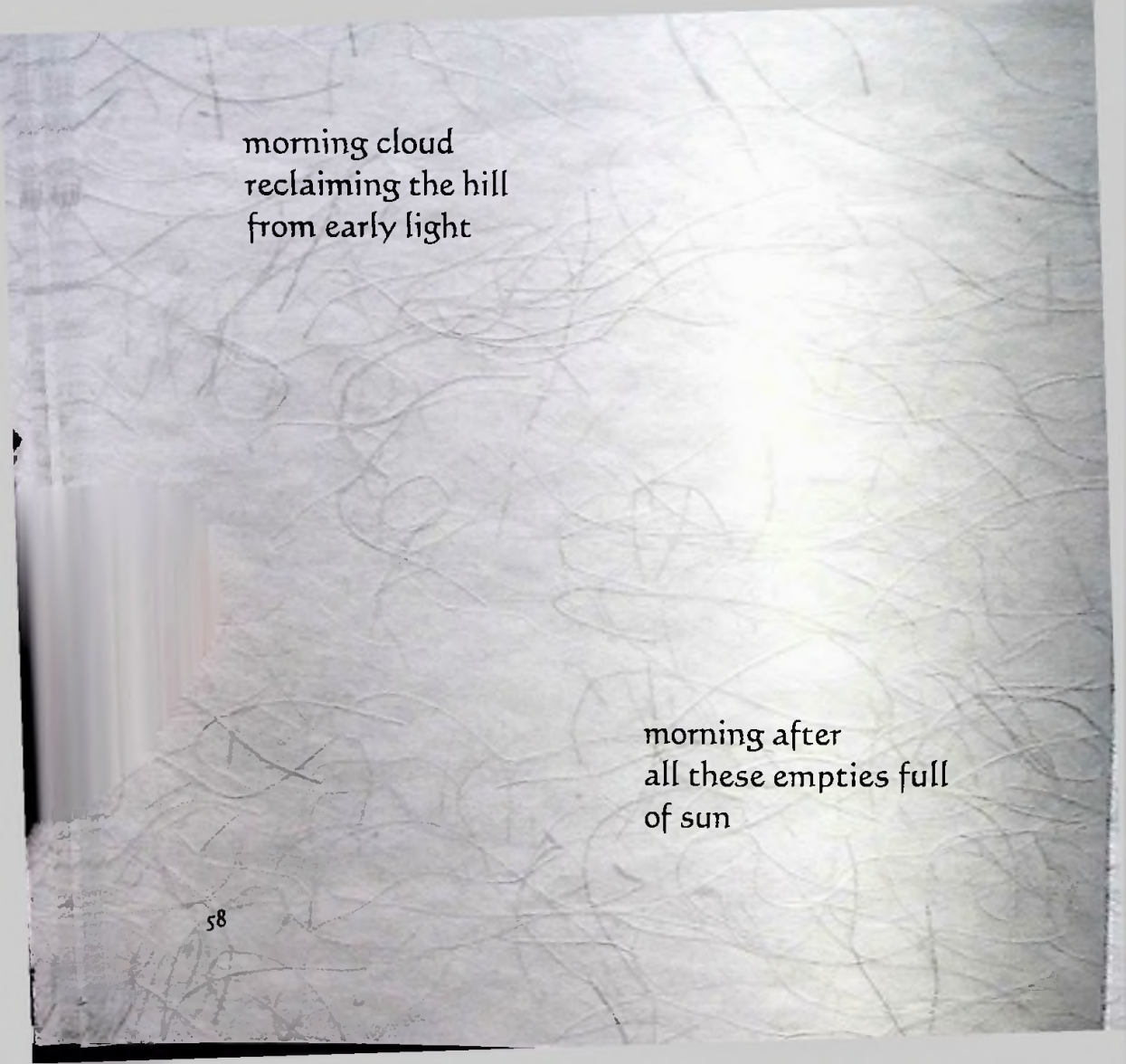
朝

Morning



morning chorus  
the sweet sound  
of nectar

kalahari  
in the light of dawn  
fleeing springboks



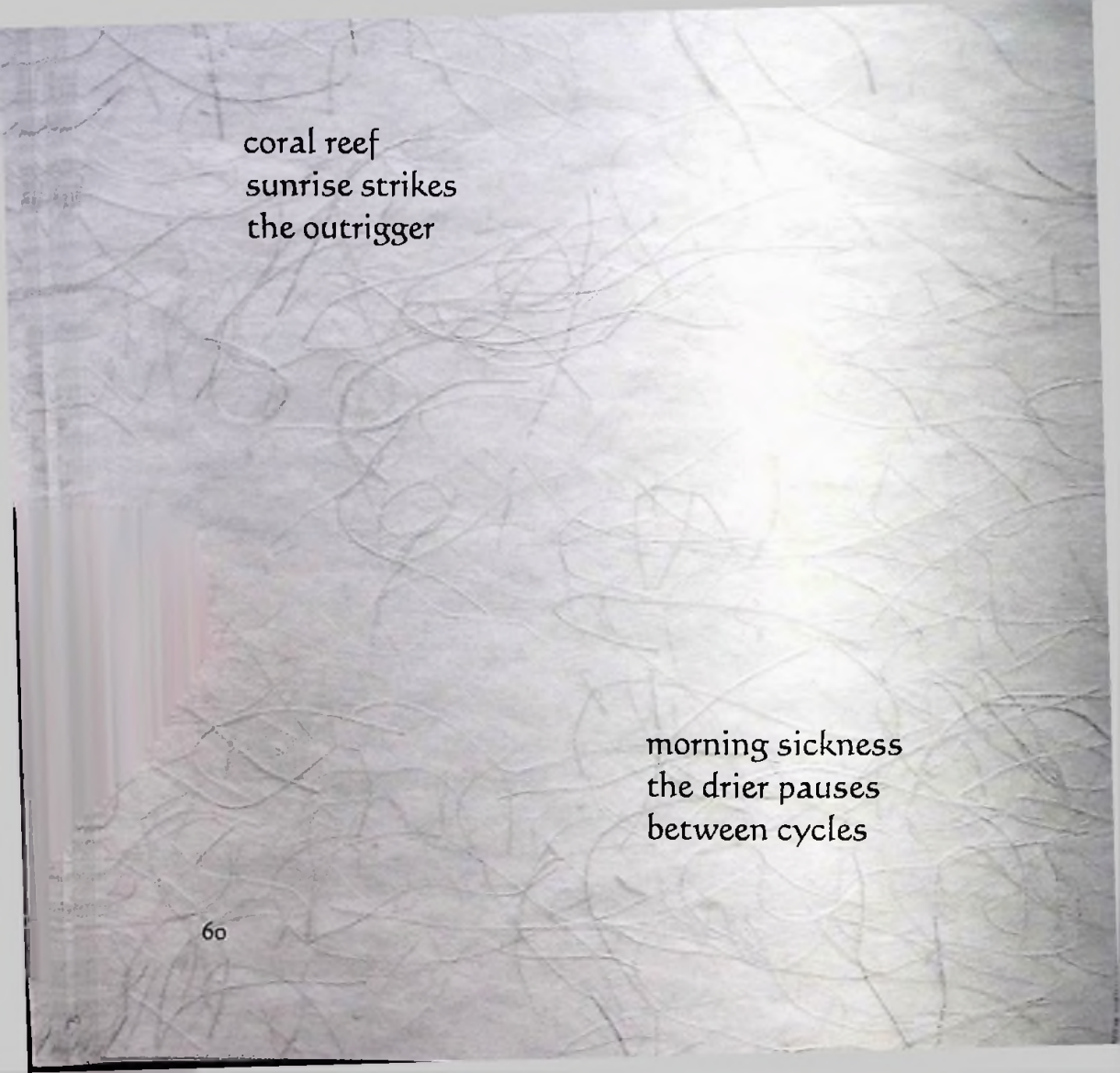
morning cloud  
reclaiming the hill  
from early light

morning after  
all these empties full  
of sun



morning mist  
distant thunder  
from canaveral

forest dawn  
fingers of light  
smell of pine oil



coral reef  
sunrise strikes  
the outrigger

morning sickness  
the drier pauses  
between cycles

morning shower a rainbows drifts over whiteness

morning tide  
the netted dolphin  
still smiling

september morning  
the ring of temple bells  
in my step



waimak sunrise  
my hooked salmon leaps  
into it

hot morning  
the hair-stylist's cat  
uncurls

july morning  
fire-ants pour  
from the faucet

sunrise a line of fishermen catches fire







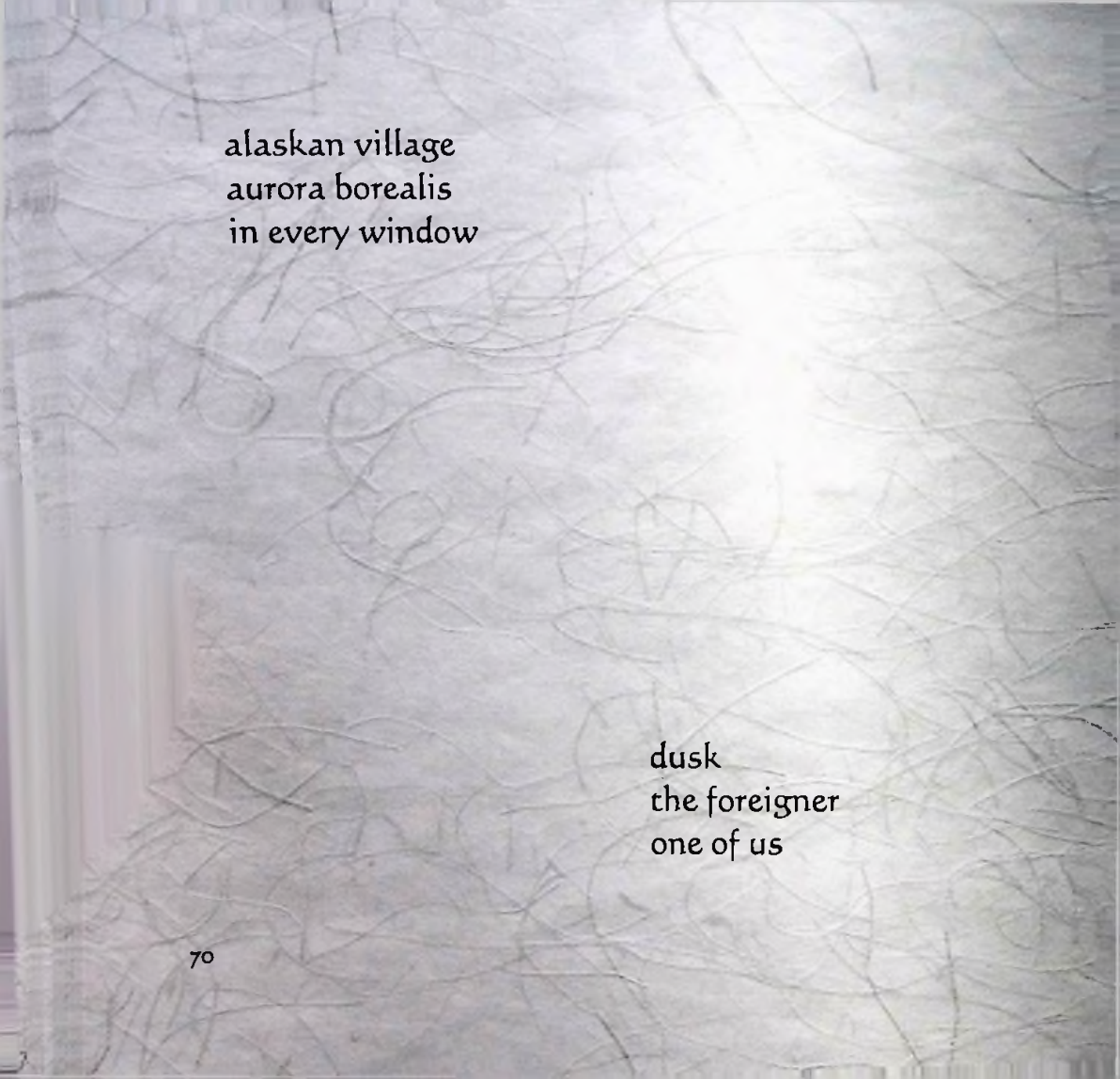
# 夕暮八

Dusk



dying sun  
another dust devil  
lies down

cruising osprey  
how easily she slips  
into dusk



alaskan village  
aurora borealis  
in every window

dusk  
the foreigner  
one of us



first love  
windmills turning  
to dusk

setting sun  
dune shadows deepen  
the lagoon



イブニング

Evening

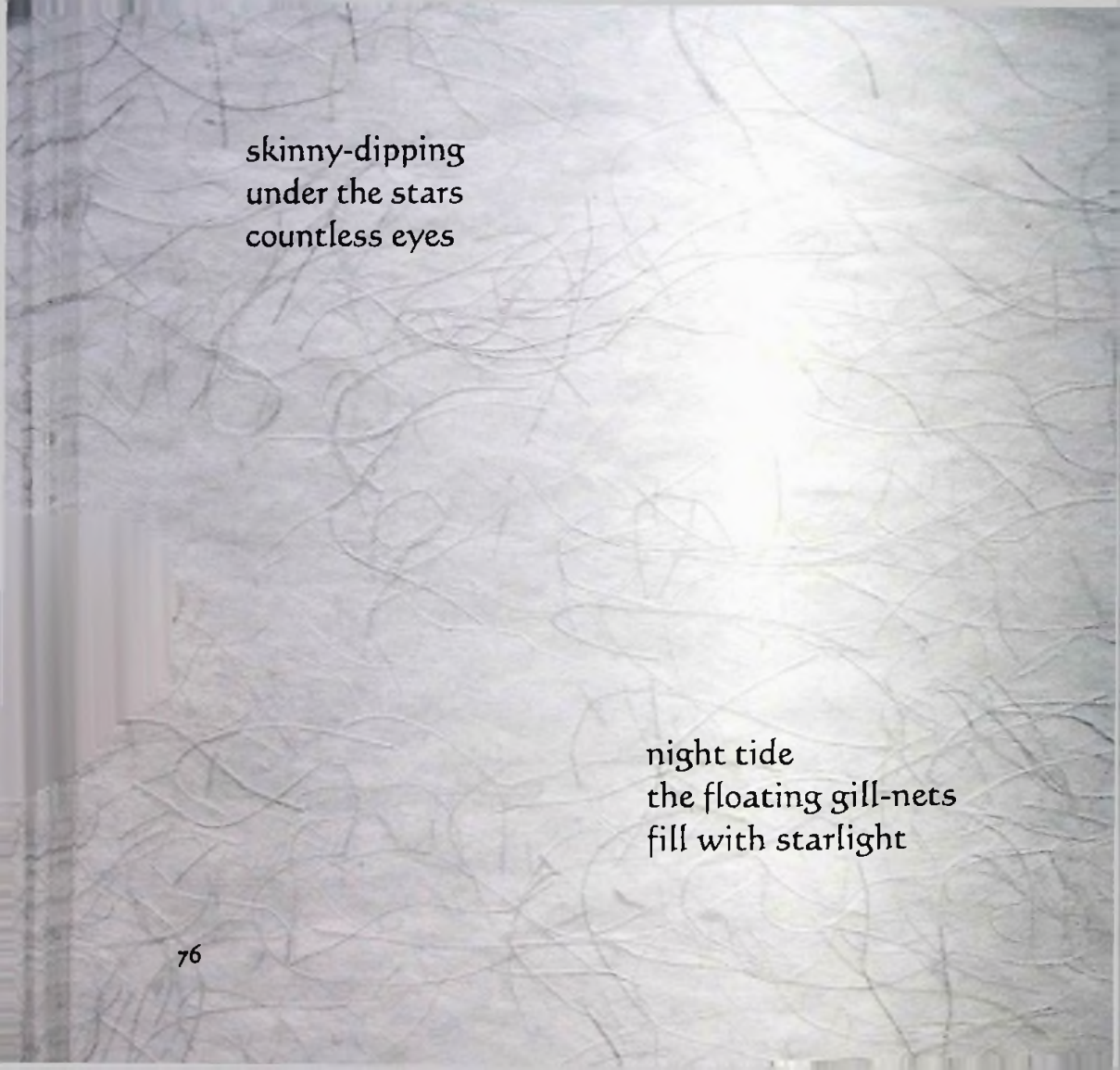






discovering  
the southern hemisphere moon  
this way up

night fishing  
knee deep  
in the pleiades



skinny-dipping  
under the stars  
countless eyes

night tide  
the floating gill-nets  
fill with starlight

night fishing : hibiscus lands on the lake

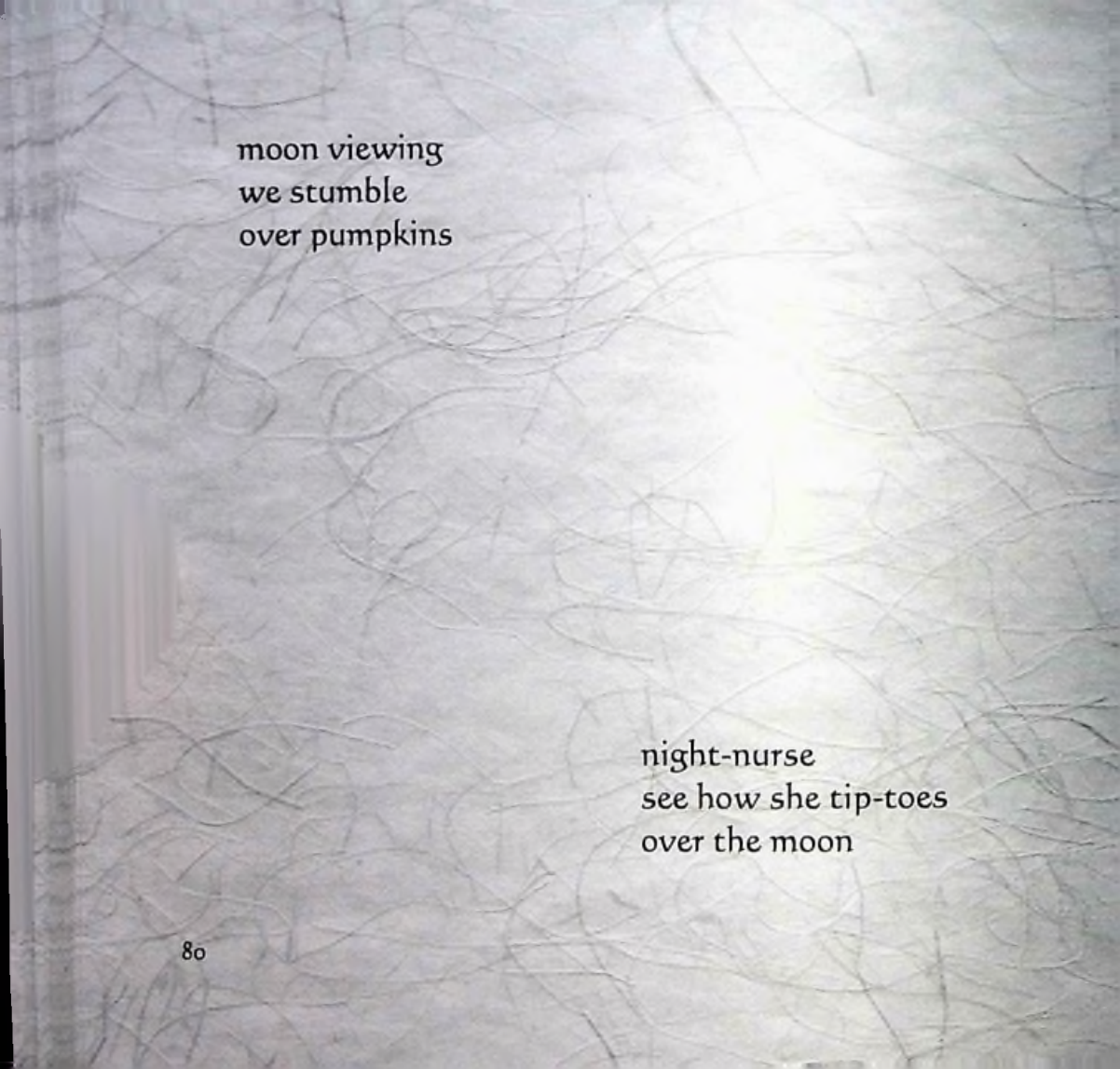
sultry night  
something in the birdbath  
empties the moon

overnight rain  
reflections by the runway  
levitate



night sky  
in the tidal pool  
more starfish

on her kimono  
glistening in the moonlight  
scent of roses



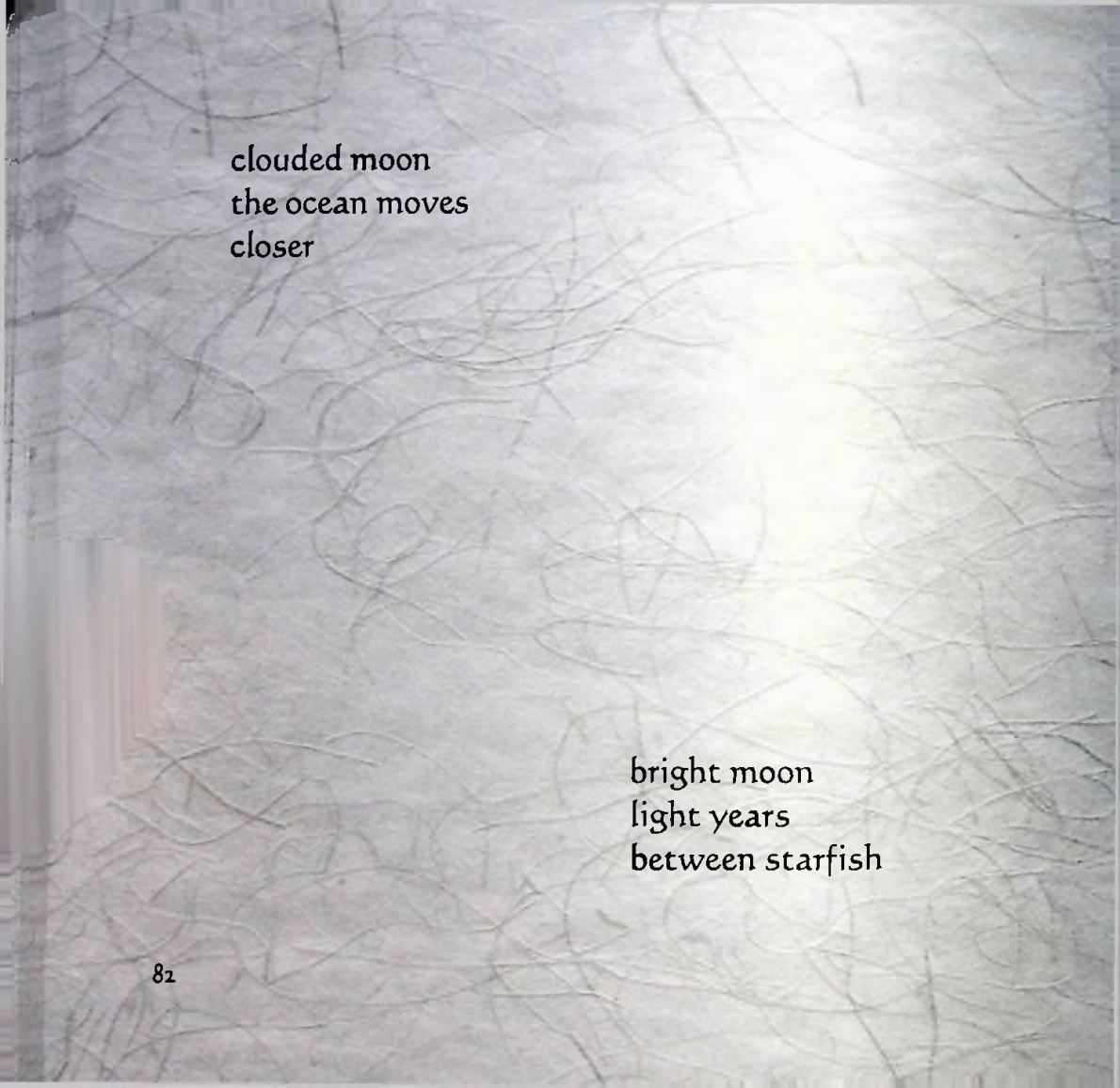
moon viewing  
we stumble  
over pumpkins

night-nurse  
see how she tip-toes  
over the moon

overnight storm  
the avocado harvest  
in one hand

night rain  
the down pipe  
relieves itself





clouded moon  
the ocean moves  
closer

bright moon  
light years  
between starfish



clouded moon  
the sound of her slip  
hitting the floor

cold night  
a power cut brightens  
the Pleiades


new moon  
the old one  
in my arms

bedside vigil  
i check the time  
by his watch

stormy night  
a flash of enlightenment  
in basho's eye

no moon  
the click of stilettos  
on cobblestones





spider silk  
broken starlight  
between pines

end of drought  
the reservoir leaks  
moonlight



bedside vigil  
the man in the moon  
almost gone

evensong  
one by one  
the trees disappear



# 鳥類

Birds







city dump  
a seagull does it  
on the wing

graveyard  
a blackbird appears  
to sense life

into the silence  
between crashing waves  
a curlew

morning after  
the tsunami warning  
skylarks

pale dawn  
one frigate-bird  
that's all

west wind  
a mocking-bird fashions it  
into lyrics



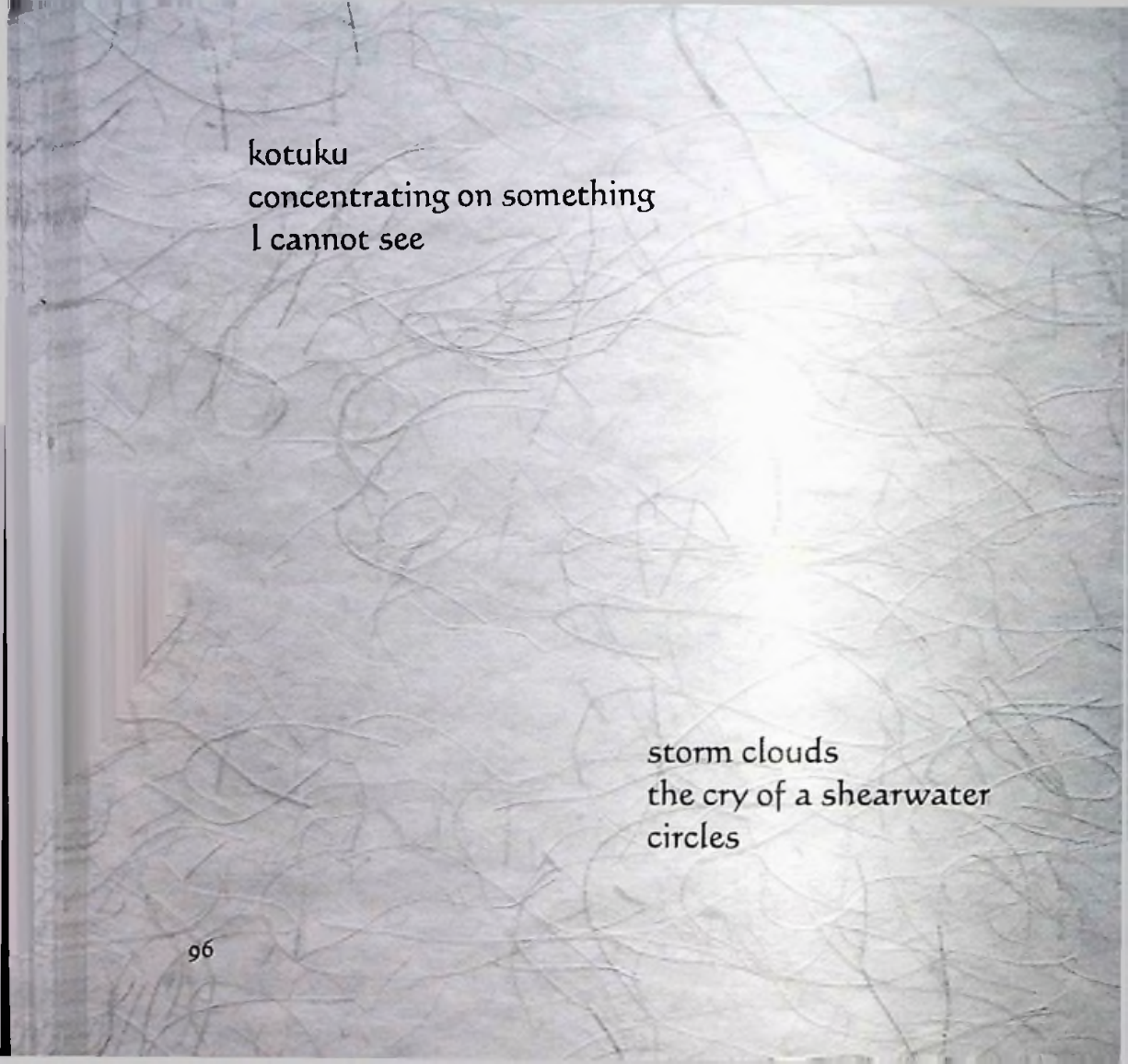
silly-mid-off  
looking splendid in whites  
flocking seagulls

billowing wind  
on her Kimono  
a heron in flight



empty feeder  
full of crow fighting  
over nothing

heron sanctuary  
the skinny cameraman  
cranes his neck



kotuku  
concentrating on something  
I cannot see

storm clouds  
the cry of a shearwater  
circles

camp site  
a cackle of magpies  
at story time

dark blue  
a lark the color  
of its aria



distant thunder  
the broken blue  
of a bird's egg

Hawaiian sunset  
the frigate bird  
catches fire



extended rain  
the heron's legs  
get shorter

- *with a nod 2 basho*

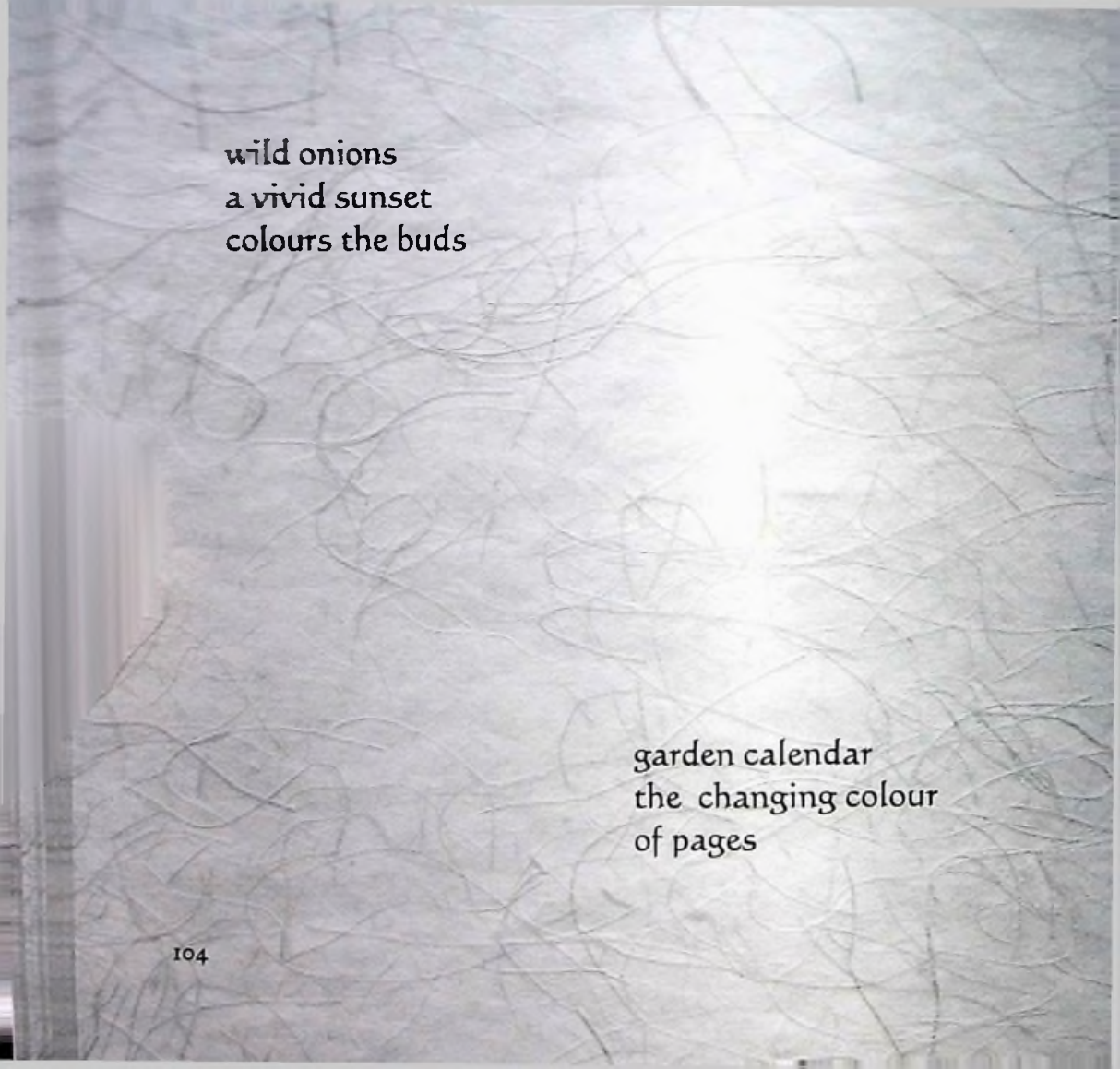
precipice  
the descending cry  
of an osprey



# 庭園

Garden





wild onions  
a vivid sunset  
colours the buds

garden calendar  
the changing colour  
of pages



wet garden  
his puppy  
brings it in

impressive name  
for a weed  
we look again

botanic gardens  
a plastic daisy dangles  
from her hat

forgotten garden  
a fig tree enters  
the fog

old garden  
where the convent was  
nodding thistles

first prize  
a pumpkin-sized hole  
in the planet







# 自然

.....

## Nature

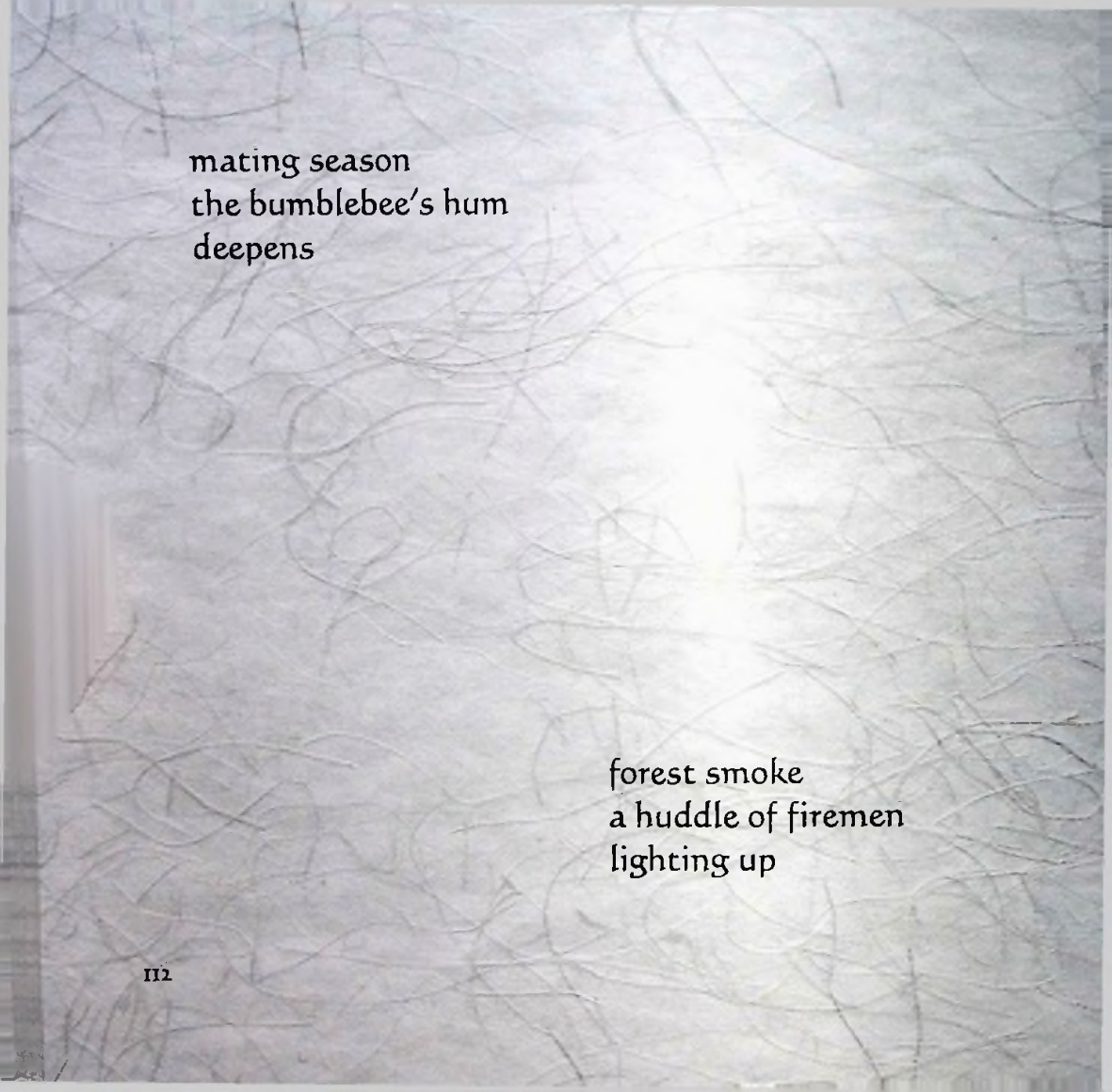
.....



nibbling on a leaf  
a yellow caterpillar  
letting in the sun

silent rain  
i stop to listen  
to the lake

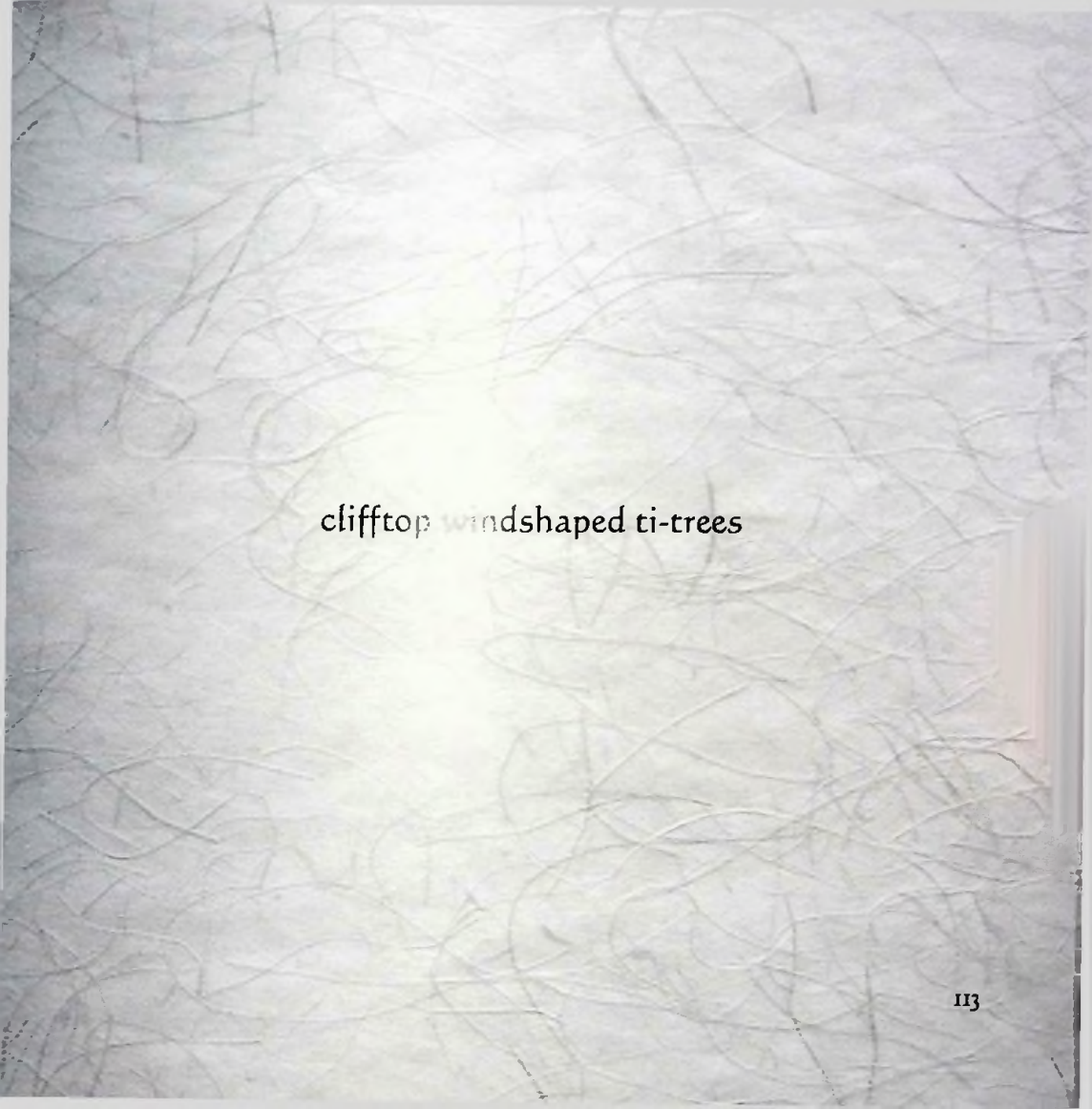




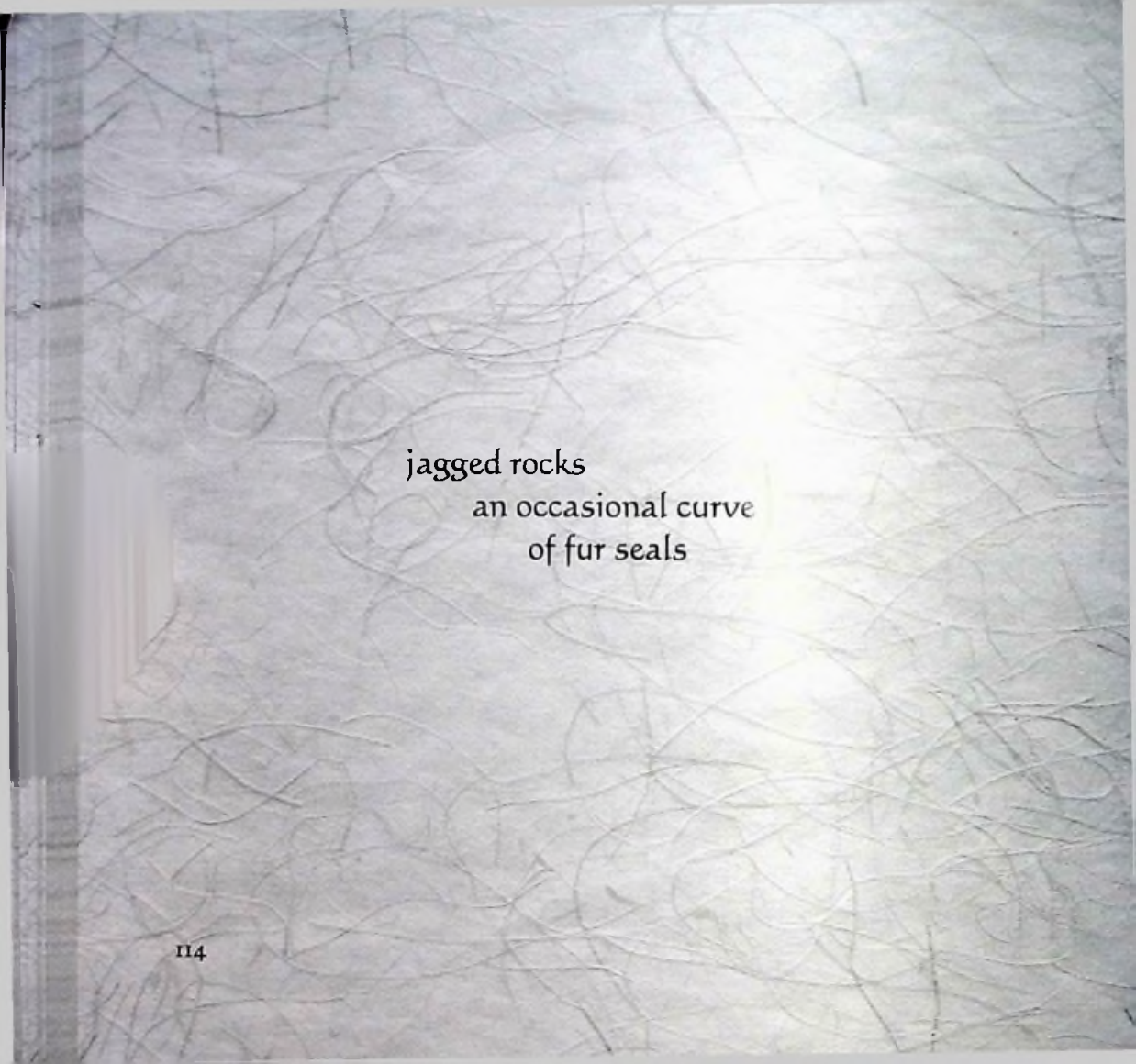
mating season  
the bumblebee's hum  
deepens

forest smoke  
a huddle of firemen  
lighting up





clifftop windshaped ti-trees



jagged rocks  
an occasional curve  
of fur seals

overnight storm  
the lake overflows  
with mountains

petrified tree  
the echo  
of stone axes

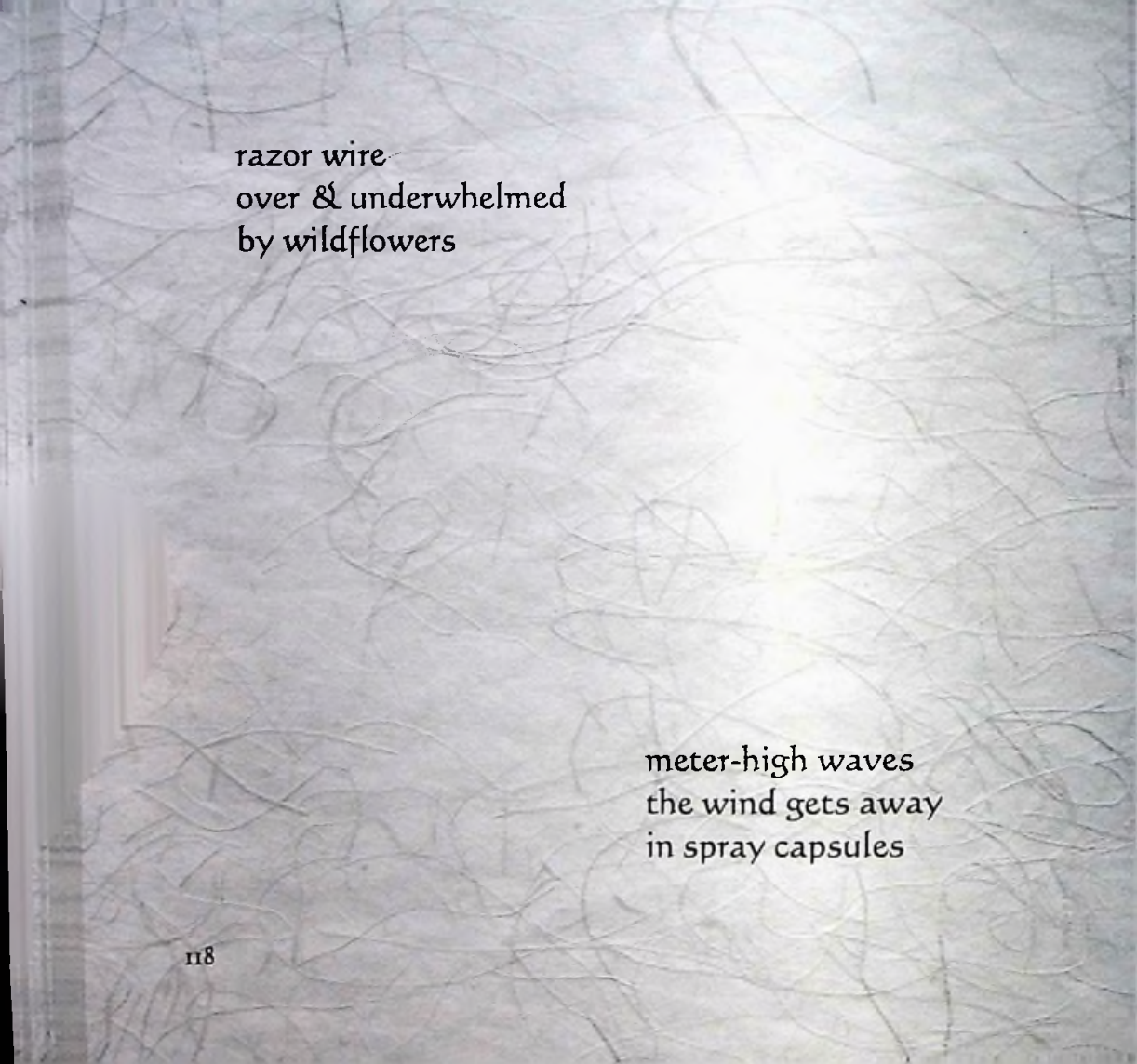


another time zone  
the tuatara  
out on its own

dead dolphin  
a friendly nod  
to every wave



long grass a lone white cloud grazes



razor wire  
over & underwhelmed  
by wildflowers

meter-high waves  
the wind gets away  
in spray capsules

separated ...  
waking  
to cicadas

flooded river  
a rainbow bridges  
the mist



stillness one cicada across the lake



2001  
the 5-day fruitfly's  
2nd century

after the sound and light show  
...cicadas and stars

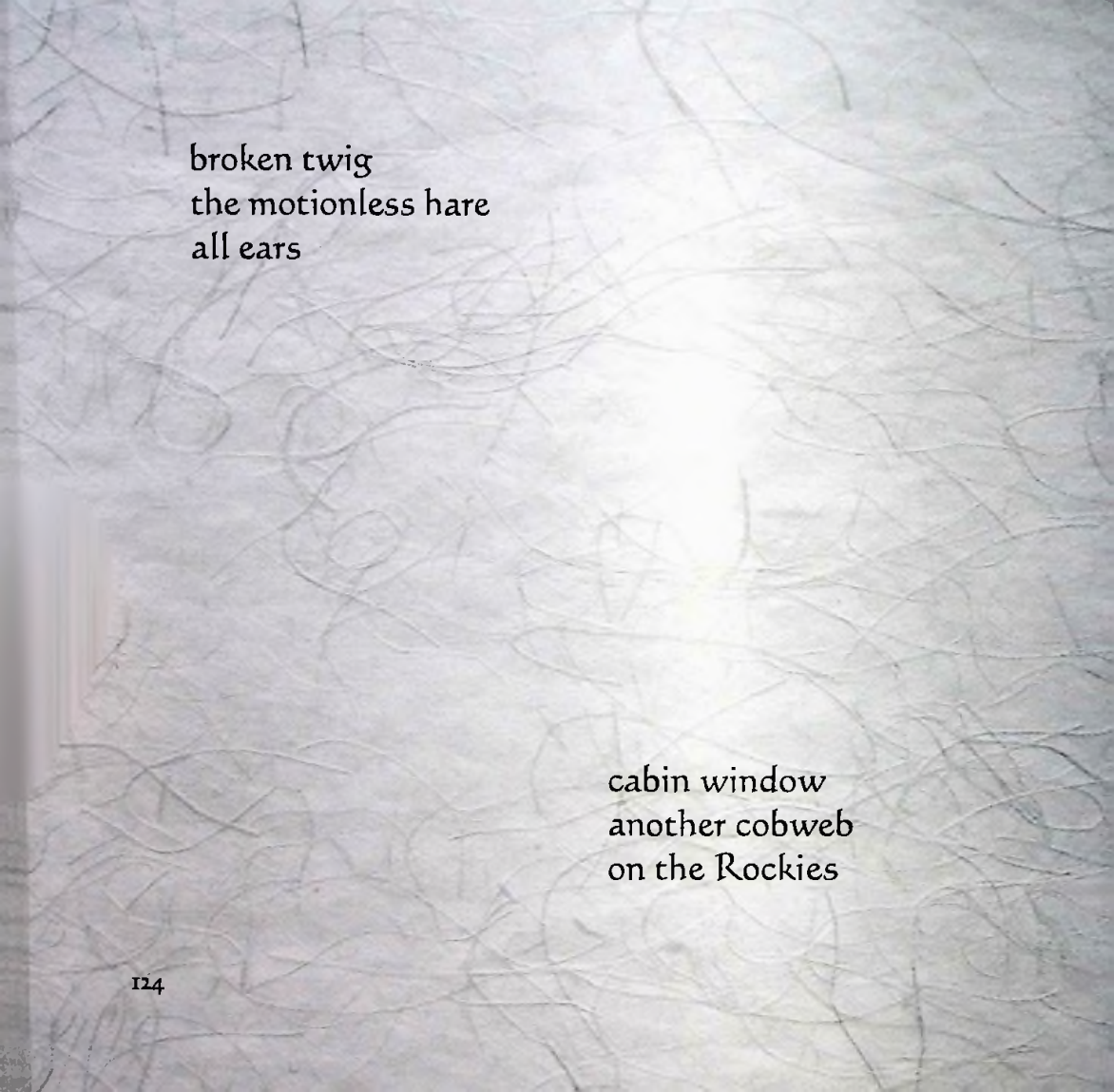
alpine lake  
a kayak glides by  
on a kayak

ashram  
mountain mist  
lit from within

aswan dam  
one dam swan  
after another

bellflower  
the sound  
of nectar





broken twig  
the motionless hare  
all ears

cabin window  
another cobweb  
on the Rockies



childhood home  
i park in the shade  
of my acorn

desert heat  
a lizard disappears  
into the rattler


dust bowl  
a herd of longhorn  
skeletons

mating season  
one cicada  
after another

dying oak  
by the curators home  
limbs akimbo

heartwood  
the softness  
of a termite



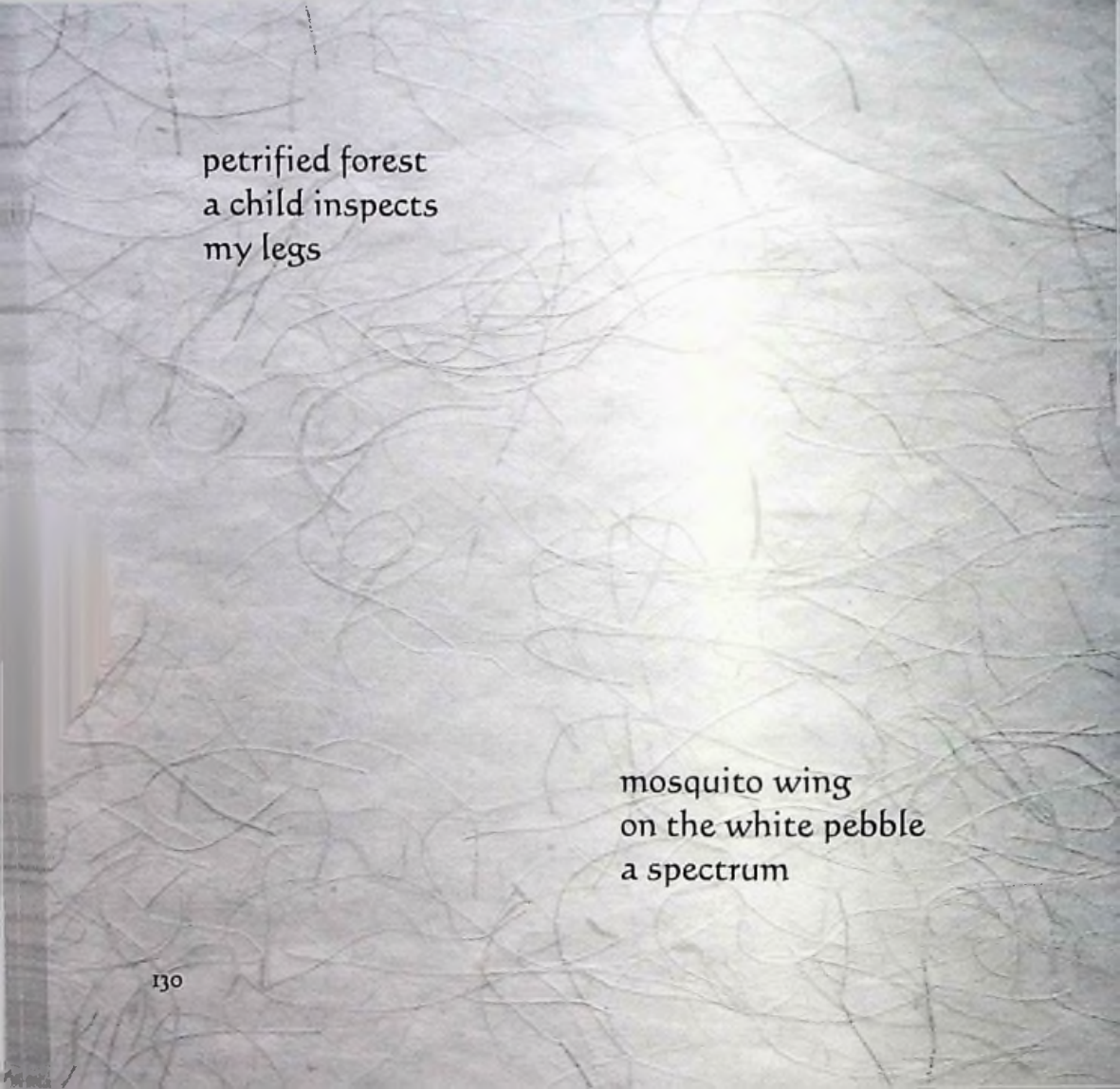


lily pad  
the holding pattern  
of dragonflies

drought  
just one little flower  
no one sowed



intel spider tying together constellations



petrified forest  
a child inspects  
my legs

mosquito wing  
on the white pebble  
a spectrum

our wisteria  
flowering well  
next door

hot wind  
a pine cone waddles  
to the pond

*"a nod to Allan Burns"*







# 生活

.....

## Life

.....



alone  
the cold interior  
of her po box

cyber problem  
i contact my neighbor's  
nine-year-old



estate sale...  
antique lovers  
test the bed springs

eventide Home  
twisted fingers tend  
a window box



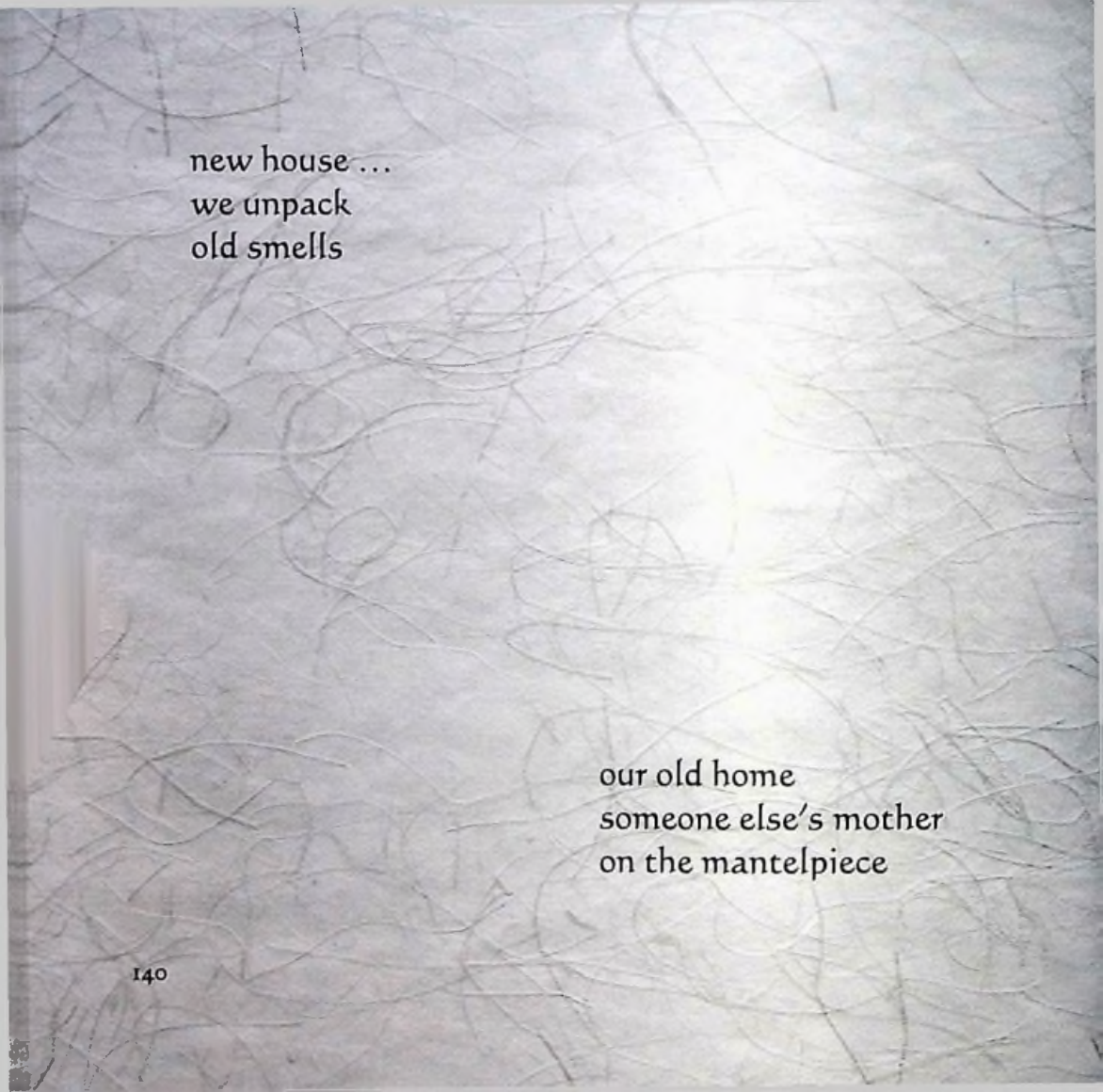
family home morning glory gathers us

grape harvest  
i meet another pair  
of sparkling eyes

merry-go-round  
she smiles at me  
& him & him & him

keeping low sidling along to Jenny Craig's





new house ...  
we unpack  
old smells

our old home  
someone else's mother  
on the mantelpiece



skid row  
a homeless box  
turns over

slamming doors  
up and down the street  
a pair of mormons

convalescing ...  
the window takes 2 hours  
to cross the carpet

deserted church  
the yew's shadow moves  
pew to pew

disinherited  
my rich sister grins  
from the obits

early mass  
the old matchmaker's  
odd sox



family chapel  
my ancestors' patina  
on the seats

family  
am i the last to go  
snowmelt



folding sheets  
we stop all talk  
of divorce

river of life  
set in flowing stone  
a new millennium

school reunion  
i immediately recognize  
no one

school reunion  
we open another bottle  
of small talk

bracing for the big one  
the little kid next door  
surfs past

invisible gate  
the little girl chains it  
with daisies



crash site  
his toy truck  
up-side-down

daguerreotype  
my infamous ancestor  
in diapers



first date  
a spot of rain  
in my coffee

landfill  
yesterday's headlines  
sinking in



休日

Holidays







Christmas Eve  
the shivering cat  
heavy with kittens

dad's gramophone  
again i'm woken  
by silent night

xmas morning  
toys on his window sill  
wrapped in sunrise

holiday  
the Avon Lady takes off  
her face

Easter Sunday  
neighbours on their knees  
weeding

New year  
the old one  
in the wash







ユーモア

Humour



ground fog  
the top of a kangaroo  
occasionally

lost dog  
i pause at the post  
she used to pee on



*from an Irish newspaper ...*

treeless plain  
a vulture lands  
on its shadow

crontrath  
an dorchadas  
istigh ionam

sofa set  
his well upholstered wife  
in same fabric



nude beach  
an empty bikini  
turns me on

waiting room  
i start an epidemic  
of yawns

getting on  
i play a few holes  
on my lap-top

sunbather  
i elicit a wink  
from her navel

security monitor my silly grin



nude beach  
she covers  
her hairdo

esl  
the vietnamese girl giggles  
in english



asian shop  
they calculate my software  
on an abacus

missing son  
the one he told  
get lost

waterfall  
my horse passes  
water

basement window  
fly spots  
on the rain

brisk walk  
an empty snail  
keeps up

bulldozer  
a yellow caterpillar  
in its tracks



circus tent  
sillhouettes  
cross-dressing

collective farm  
the old scarecrow's  
broken back



December rain  
a stray dog licks  
my feelings

filleting fish  
trying to avoid  
eye contact

fly fishing  
she asks me to stop  
mid-stream

glass-bottom boat  
a marvellous view  
of her bottom

alone  
no reply  
to dial-a-prayer

claim form -  
the effing burglars left  
with my pen



undressing the summer wind turns red



cold morning  
out duck shooting  
i miss her

sixth husband  
she picks a fresh bunch  
of bridesmaids



# 洞察

Insight







alzheimer's  
the old pianist's fingers  
remember

eulogy  
the length of a sigh  
from cypresses

blind date  
the thickening skin  
on her latte

bristlecone pine  
finding out  
about myself

carved on the tree  
out of reach  
my nickname

clothesline  
gramma's maternity gown  
quickens



condolences  
i open the one  
in longhand

dementia  
wild daisies  
on my grave

eulogy  
the brother i never knew  
i loved

backlit  
i lift one foot  
from its shadow

getting on  
none of the condolences  
in long-hand

pretty widow  
i introduce myself  
to her kitten



alcatraz manacles of kelp





# 戦争

War



dawn service  
all those poppies  
trampled in mud

*"we'll meet again"*  
she croons to the troops  
who won't return



memorial pool  
a legless soldier  
reflects

remembrance day  
a hummingbird visits  
my poppy

no-man's land  
the rattle of a troop train  
returning empty

war memorial  
they blow up  
the old one

war graves  
wave after wave  
of cicadas

war memorial  
making way  
for a new one

veterans day  
i sit & listen  
to dead grass

blow-up globe  
he points out trouble spots  
with his cigar



silent gun the soldier's uncovered tongue

friendly fire  
enemy and friend  
uniformly dead

dawn service  
i meet an old man  
older than me









*Taking inspiration from our surroundings: Ernie Berry with daughter Libby in Victoria Park, Picton. The natural beauty of Queen Charlotte Sound is an appropriate setting for haiku.*

*'Haiku, Green Tea and Sushi' brings together a distinctive collection of this literary art form - every haiku herein has either won or placed in a competition, or featured in a prize-winning anthology.*

*Allowing some deviation from the traditional structure permits Ernie to deepen the minimalism which is the heart of his striking haiku; saying much with little.*

*Come in and sample the fare.*

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