

BELLADONNA*26

[THINGS] SEEN / UNSEEN



by Anne Waldman

*deadly nightshade, a cardiac and respiratory stimulant, having purplish-red flowers and black berries

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Belladonna is a reading series at Bluestockings Women's Bookstore that promotes the work of women writers who are adventurous, experimental, politically involved, multi-form, multi-cultural, multi-gendered, impossible to define, delicious to talk about, unpredictable, dangerous with language.

Bluestockings Women's Bookstore is at 172 Allen St., New York, NY 10002.

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[THINGS SEEN]

UNSEEN

“If I had people in here, I’d want to know someone was looking too,” Danny Nolan said. Danny Nolan has nightmares now, waking up screaming about the job sometimes. Friends from the past who have died visit him, like the old friend whose name he will not speak because of a belief that the name now belongs only to the soul. In the dream, the friend takes him into a strange room and shows him actual items that Mr. Nolan has seen recovered from the World Trade Center, things like African artifacts. “The place is playing tricks on me, I guess.”

New York Times, November 18, 2001

snake wrestler
Ofra Haza singing "Galbi"
La Pitture Etrusche di Tarquinia
A Bar At The Folies-Bergère

I met a man who killed a man
-- scattered fierce T storms --

life is not like this
not the way it was supposed to be

but allegorical

you were in a place where the future had come and gone

name it "home"

I met a man who had wronged many women

crossed borders
he sidewalk here late one chilly evening
he fell back way into 20th century
Oslo on route & fall again by wayside in failed detente
code: to rout one out to out one out and suffer for it
war-state, mental siege, people gone on a dime
entering outer Mongolia

he mass seducer he holy bounder

code: seen anyone else the premises promises?

born in a crucible of heroin and rubble

all maps all children suffer
but he's privileged man-on-town
faithless, a liar of cruel tonnages

wielder of psychological harms not knowing the
truth of deeds, how concomitant ignorance is
rejecting the truth of its own nightmare
locked, of course, the SETI researcher conjures, sadly,
into weapons in space

an end to imagination or of
"thinking of things as they exist" (Oppen)
that's the rub for this palinode: I was never there
so let me go

on to smart bombs heat bombs bunker bombs
out of their caves
to one or two en route it's moot
onto and what she was into knowing
how long –Daisy Cutter – how long be shredding?

(more suicided flesh & nails)

sustaining
The Queen Tut Archive
sustaining
Pesh Merda (We Who Face Death)
sustaining
The summer of 1992:
Keraterm, Omarska, Trnopolje

a bitch from Westchester
lights up the night
digs claws into the young novelist
“sketchy” at best
a palpable hit
maybe half-truths
are the clearest phantom you have
staying alive

her mordant wit
my worst dream: lobotomy

recommended for “cognitive dissonance”

sham Xmas-tide in a negligent trophy home
little quarter acre of ache & regret (ram into heart)
crack in the way-back
Lift a candle to fetishes of crash & burn
to the fetishes of deluge, hard rock, death of a holy Beatle
the way you hold up your holiday like that playing ragas
you’d think the world depended on trance music (it does! it does!)
cumbersome native soils he writes over
the worst offender of anything ecological, all he wastes is mine
all cons, obligatory tears, subtle oil on the sex-dawn-sheet

on the strangle-this-dawn sheet

old loves come forth with a frontal assault on Adorno

*what about Indian Point
what are you going to do about it
what about your "crazy" wife
what you gonna do about her
& the girl with the face makeover?*

(the Dutil-Dumas message was sent from a transmitter in Ukraine. The message was encoded using a system called Lincos that starts with simple mathematical ideas and builds to complex information about who we are)

"My conduct was the will of my people"
--Milosevic

seen

a Burqa
an Abaya
a Chador
a Magneh
a Niqab
a Roosarie

face mask, black cloak, sheath worn by Iranian & Lebanese Shiite women, cowl-like head-covering (Iran), a face-concealing veil, Iranian handscarf

women whose senses I told you
be gentler to
& speech to save
in light of cleansing things
not the presidential selected ones

"kill, whatever it takes, let's roll!"

I take this vow in meditation

say it: *I take this vow in meditation*

women no longer hidden
non-obstruction is the effort, a greater *poethics*

I am the members of my mother the member of all my tribe I am the wearer of snakes the beater of men the egg-beater of men the whip top of men I am the barren one 'til today and many are my sons are my sons I am she whose wedding is great whose empathy soars in war who wields the shield all the weapons of 10 directions in space I am the subsidy of the low and wicked I am the toil of all Jerusalem my eyes are firebrand meteors to light your way I won't go there over there because I am here living the good life the sane life the yuppie housewife life of a lovelorn mistress life of all my people's people the life of grandiloquent suburban despair and desire I could be a prime candidate for betrayal but I trick the fiend the fibbertigibbet I flick my tongue at his sloppy mindset his sad body fluid his loathsome temper his old skin I strike up -- palsy -- with a thunderbolt I am friend to the storm king the storm windows no one knows the code the name the constellation I will inhabit in space I cry to be hidden but no one can be hidden under this new code this code of middens of ash and shell and dream of labour of telephone of plastic of glass of wood and all its constituents including fiber, of insect dung of scarab lore of wasting away in the desert waiting for a mirage of good fortune to steer my course by it will be steered it will clear, the dust storm will abate the eyes of all the enemies will open wide they will put down their rusty armaments they will wage war no more they will hang the swords from trees innocuous now out of the hands of men and as I woman I will watch I will witness I will recall any stumbler any falterer I will track the liars and abusers to their graves I will tear up their scrolls their mighty warmongering poetry their lasting flame of crude moans because their lot is to be white to be male to be privileged to be of greater arrogant sex pain than the ones who really suffer never forget the sufferers of field of stream of mountain of meadow of dungeon of cavern of full fathom five of Hawaii Five-O of Havana of harvest time of constabulary withholding of tax evasion of draft dodging of being profiled for color, for race, for ideological metaphoricalness for religious belief to be an artist of regret isn't your calling to be an artist of remorse is not for you to be an artist of doom and gloom forget it to be a chance operation is more your style as long as the waters part the breath is held and you survive to carry on the examination of evidence of choice of love of dark pogrom of prison of death camp of trapped in Nablus of trapped in the Church of The Nativity of elected officials that were never my choice or yours to keep the men honest and functioning to abdicate control so that people are happy and free and not one is hit upon no one is subjected to the indignities of false love of fallacious love of folly love of freak love of wearing out of syllables love of treason love of dis-the-women love. Avaunt thee warlock!

dicey talk
the markers are all mine
mitochondria in space
strident lab animals in the forgone conclusion tubes
gene splice continues
(genes for spider silk spliced into goat's milk)

*cut out the one for grief & splice in aspiration
this document keeps the demons at bay*

*Extrapolated in haste from Journal "Time Goes By/Please Return If Lost This Book This Way"
Fall-Winter 2001-2002.*

BELLADONNA* CATALOG

Pamphlets are published in conjunction with the BELLADONNA* reading series (Bluestockings Women's Bookstore, NYC) and are between 6 and 20 pages in length.

published in 2000:

1. Mary Burger, *Eating Belief*
2. Camille Roy, *Dream Girls*
3. Cecilia Vicuña, *Bloodskirt*, trans. Rosa Alcalá
4. Fanny Howe, parts from *Indivisible*
5. Eleni Sikelianos, from *The Book of Jon*
6. Laura Mullen, *Translation Series*
7. Beth Murray, *12 Horrors*
8. Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, *Audience*
9. Laura Wright, *Everything Automatic*

published in 2001:

10. Lisa Jarnot, *Nine Songs*
11. Kathleen Fraser, *Soft Pages*
12. Rachel Blau DuPlessis, *Draft 43: Gap*
13. Nicole Brossard, *Le Cou de Lee Miller/The Neck of Lee Miller*
14. Lee Ann Brown, *The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Reverse Mermaid*
15. Adeena Karasick, *The Arugula Fugues VII-VIII*
16. Aja Couchois Duncan, *Commingled : Sight*
17. Lila Zemborain, *PAMPA*
18. Cheryl Pallant, *Spontaneities*
19. Lynne Tillman, *chapters from Weird Fucks* and "Dead Talk"
20. Abigail Child, *Artificial Memory*—vol 1 & vol 2 (\$6 set)

published in 2002:

21. Deborah Richards, *Put A Feather In It*
22. Norma Cole, *BURNS*
23. Jocelyn Saidenberg, *Dusky*
24. Gail Scott, *Bottoms Up*
25. Carla Harryman, *DIMBLUE* and *Why Yell*
26. Anne Waldman, *[THINGS] SEEN/UNSEEN*
27. kari edwards, *a diary of lies*
28. Bhanu Kapil Rider, from *The Wolf Girls of Midnapure*

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