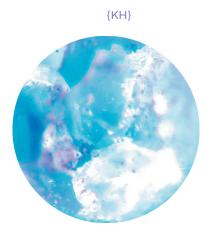


Limestone carries with it seams of crystalline calcite. It lays embedded in the rock, weaving its silver veins through submergent land. Acidic rainfall permeates the skin of the rockface, cutting out cave and cavern. It winds along the seams, disturbing and dissolving calcite from its fossilised sleep and leaving behind hollow passages. The now calcite heavy rainwater continues to follow gravity along the rock strata in search of release. Seeping from the ceiling, its drips are steady and consistent, pushing down against the cave floor. A puddle-sized lake forms at the surface. The stalagmite cannot grow upwards from the wet ground so instead, the calcite droplets gather. In spherical form, they begin to solidify. Concentric rings encircling an inner nucleus, rotating in the current and smoothing their surfaces. Growing uninterrupted, cave pearls line the floors of waterlogged caves. Clustered bodies moving synchronised in their pools.







Water her every two weeks starting next week next Wednesday Fill the kitchen sink with water take the pot, the plant and the from the window to the kitchen Put the plant in the pot in the water leave her there for about three hours Listen to the rain Picture her mouth Drain the sink let her rest for an hour Put the plant back on the plate the plate on the sill

1



we are stoned immaculate

born to live raised to suffer ragged sudden slow out here out here the spitting corridors splitting single mums with mirrors for friends counting spare change in supermarkets out here outside labourers climbing ladders shouting incoherently over old school rnb on the radio ripped shirts cracks hanging out the back out here

waiters waiting around then running riotous with ungrateful patrons but cracking jokes in three languages to pass time out here

out here the offices offices hunched over hostage minds off hours hunting thrills or quick fix

sadness like a shot fighter falling down one last time in front of the world

out here it's heartless these days effortless reign our strength is a private wordless order where we own time

out here waiting like a laughing stock backstage shitting bricks life death languid doesn't have to become a dull lull

passionate pursuit invites consequence

out here we might pull up a seat at the table as they sip expensive wine and it's loud wild intoxication

a luscious maze of wanting we're sick of running circles out here to quiet mad misery minds

out here we question ourselves can we find progress and contentment when it it has become shipped and packaged and marketed and sold

and yes kindness still touches our souls gently like feathered wings and lifts us above ourselves we smile at death

{AP}

Before Glasgow, a fire.

Gorse runs, a fire lining tracks, forged hot against stone. Sheep wool in knots catch on outcrops jagged, hills dipping then rising olive, mauve, to silver.

Grey pointed houses construct themselves from nowhere, before a city of Mackintosh comes, steeples and glass panes connected by bracing cold. An utterance unlike my own.

I have to listen, carefully, to this harsher, older tongue but it gives this body reference, gives my thinking a channel to where it began,

my father's name a starting point, running down its rivers to meet the mouth, of a sea of a fisherman who would row - Scotland to Ireland and bring with them this wilderness and fire, for another.

{LRC}



O

Oysters close their lids at night, and I close mine. Tongues loose; how long is the tide? Oysters open wide at night, swell with salt and always generous, hold your flesh, sigh.

From the train to Carlisle, watch

The Paper

Pine trees stand arm in arm. then emptiness. Pine trees again.

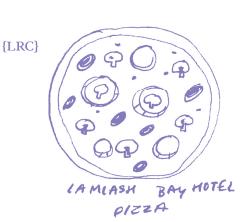
Continuing too quickly, heather and hares blur with lambs and bothy remember when we watched a ewe nurse her children, an afterbirth hung loose.

To think of motherhood and cradling, of mangers and shelter, and see no houses, rivers undisturbed.

The carriage slows, better for viewing, and we are consumed by the vastness of it all, note a longing for touch,

burning, as peat beyond the window simmers, earth's heat taking to cooling air.

Splintered wood pickets outline these grounds the land feels its own undoing.



TANTRUM

DONNT(S)



THINGS WE DID EAT =



{AJ&JVS}

too early to tell

she left two days ago

citing ambition

i turned away turned off

that's Christmas alone then

I broke it down but

couldn't catch a break

episodes of Seinfeld to avoid feeling alone

voices in the room now

characters that could be friends

no sense here too early to tell

time and wine are old tricks

learning to be alone again



Stone Fruit

Today I called him a peach galette 'Are you there, my peach galette?' I said, you know Hours pass Are you alive? I say Or have you turned to stone? Perhaps a plant? And who shall water thee? Later he says he is a burrito Trying to be a peach In a pit

CHIAROSURO

Chiascuro is not
'Male' and 'female' frogs
The shadow is cool and it is not
Unlit. The arms on these fossils
Are elbow-y. My elbow
Is not understandable. And blue
Is not okay, it's
Not ugly and that's a problem
For everyone.

 $\{ML\}$



{HD}

P.S. I Love You

Home Truths

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A Letter to Glasgow from a Visitor in Marseille

Dear friend,

Before I came to Marseille, someone told me that the wind here could be so overwhelming that it could drive people to do absurd and sometimes violent things. That according to the law, people who were possessed by the wind were not even responsible for their own actions. I haven't been blown around since I've been here but I did get a sunburn and my psoriasis has spread. It's not really the same thing at all though, is it?

When I first got here, I noticed this old man climbing these steps that stretch between the underground metro and St Charles De Gare, the city's central train station. These steps are quite long and deeply set—about a meter or two below the escalators that flank the concrete stair on either side. They are a layer unto themselves, separate from up and down, overground and underground.

I watched this man struggle to walk up them, sunken below me as I rose steadily on the escalator. When he made it to the landing he hunched over and clutched the cross hanging on his gold necklace. I wanted to ask if he needed help but my french is not very good and then abruptly he turned and started making his way down again. I've watched him now several times, on several different days. He is constantly on the verge of collapse, but he won't stop. He could be exercising or maybe practicing some form of penance, but I really wish I spoke better french so I could ask.

I thought a lot about how I would enter this city, but not a lot about how I would exit it. I was prepared to be whipped around by the wind but instead I have found myself moving back and forth in tunnels. I wanted to write you before I got home so you could know what it was like for the six weeks I was here, before its gets cloudy. I miss you and I will see you very soon.

With love from Marseille

lou are invite 6:30pm-8:30pm (unticketed) Stick he n Lunchtime Gallery. 32 St. Andrews St Sticky Fingers Publishing are an intra-dependant feminist press based in London. Since 2019 they have published leminist queer crip work which is too messy, fragile or terrifying to be published anywhere else. Since 2020 Sicky Fingers have been producing a monthly mail out; a postal subscription publishing output which is received by over 50 subscribers across Britain and the world. The Sticky Fingers mail out is a space for works-inody Glasgow G1 5PD icky erei gua ds n Sticky Fingers mail out is a space for worl progress, print scraps, and disciplines ag genre. Gathered here in their first exhibit V Fi selection of ephemera, prints and wri across the last wo years of mail outs tise nere will be drinks, nibbles, and a limited lition A2 risograph poster available on the ght. nce ualit and then ... Following the private view, we are going to be heading over to 3onjour for the STICKY FINGERS SUMMER PARTY!. For one night and one night only, we'll hear readings from a host of friends and foes from our Glasgow based back-catalogue. The night will be hosted by our resident-event planner and pest, Donna the Time. 9, w 8:30pm-late are (ticketed PWYC) Bonjour, rtor 37 - 45 Saltmarket, Glasgow G1 5NA Doors at 8pm, readings from 9pm Ticket link & access info available through the link in our instagram bio @stickyfingerspublishing

{PS}

goodpress.co.uk sundays-print-service.co.uk lunchtimegallery.co.uk Contributions accepted on a rolling basis, submit before the 20th to feature in the following month issue. Send your words, images and more to: goodpress.thepaper@gmail.com.

{SFP}