

Public Reading of Ezekiel 23:20

oh those children's inviolable voices sang
rounds of comprehensive laissez faire that
made the violet drapes tremble suddenly

like dancers' bracelets
before the headmistresses unleashed Miss April
on the dreamlets, for April's was the cruellest mouth

her unappeasable woman movements were black, hideous
hands wrought to snuff every childlike light lit that snowy evening

she held back the edges
of her gown to wade into
a cacophonous, dire Hell

soon she was among the small children
her barbaric yawps opened their watery eyes
wide enough for tears to fill the gaps in their innocent joys

April had to fall upon them
she wove their heads back together with hasty kisses,
looked each one in the eye as if checking her needlework,
and with a tongue that issued like a horse she repeated:
HURRY UP PLEASE IT'S STORY TIME
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they scattered like crooks beneath a search chopper
because she had been in their ears, and the only way
to hide was to quietly dip into their sheets as flowers
drop out of view when they are fully prepared to die

while the babes lay
waiting on their fantasies,
the man who made the books crawled
from under one of the children's beds; his
pearl eyes were so shrouded with whiteness that
the children slowly fell asleep imprisoned in his pallid look

a nightingale slid out from the clock in the hallway
chirping *Jug Jug Jug Jug* to the dirty ladies' ears as
they arranged chairs for the fairytale about to occur

when the man who made the books squirmed over the
threshold, the sweat on the breasts of the audience seemed
engaged in the obscure & intricate task of beading, but there
was no water running over their bodies anymore only talcum

in a circle
the book was opened to the women
by the man who said *Draw near me;*
the women knew the words, and the words
were memorized by their flesh that bulged out
unevenly through the chairs supporting them as pages fell:

the swan got nothing for sticking its neck out like that
the knight ran out of 4 way tire tool dick for the maids
a skunk pretended the cat was a skunk that liked rape
April put her lips to the man's ear, & blew his head off
In due time, please be heedful to overlook their pain