

[3] *MONSTER*

I went looking for the cancer & I found it henna-headed¹ smiling strangely talking dirty in German & fellating my uveal tracts² until my nose started to bleed soft breasts

& harsh consonants make for lousy lovers

~

baby's head in a brown recluse³ nest you better pull up your socks like whoa I mean duck & cover I mean I don't understand the question & you're a homewrecker

& you look like you have mange when you yank your pubic⁴ hair out in clumps like that

~

stay cold stay gold snort baby laxative snort pixie stix crush up bath salts & snort them like crystal meth⁵
snort sea salt snort cracked black pepper

& try to keep your eyes open during the sneezing fit

~

tonguing an abscessed⁶ tooth achieving homeostasis⁷ no fucking cat no fucking cradle we will know you by the sound of your crepitation⁸ & my spine your spine

& those fetishistic-length⁹ needles

~

& you said it was a lot like Satan's cum¹⁰ in your mouth.

¹ A codex of obscure folktales & legends. She was a sweet girl, with a head shaped like a light bulb^a; it was especially noticeable when she wore her hair pulled back. He often stared at her while she was sleeping & fantasized about making a bong^b out her skull, wondering how much smoke it could hold once it was hollowed out.

^a For you, it always comes back to teeth. You have fantasized about taking a ball peen hammer to your mouth and smashing your teeth, or of rubbing whiskey* on your gums** to numb*** them & using needle-nosed pliers to pull them all out.

^b We're putting it on wax. It's the new style.

* It's a familiar story: sky eats airplane, spits out fuselage, somewhere in the Carolinas a farmer's tobacco field bursts into flames.

** Also known as a harbor coat. Will sometimes answer to the name Thierry.

*** The answer is no & fuck you very much.

² The patron saint of carrion crows & offal^a eaters. They caught up to him on I-40, just outside Amarillo, wearing a porkpie hat at a rakish angle & with parts from four different bodies in his trunk.

^a We would sleep wherever we collapsed, throats raw from all the screaming. We used our lungs* for everything but.

* It was ironic, like a whale.

³ An out-of-body experience. Of course, anyone can blame a lapse in judgment on some kind of past-life regression. In these situations, the *ubermensch*^a will always rely almost exclusively on muscle memory.

^a This was when you were all mouth & I was all pistol & and on a good day we left bloodstains on the walls.

⁴ Interstitial boundaries. The last time anybody saw him was in the vicinity of the needle exchange^a with a shopping cart half-filled with aluminum cans & stripped copper wire. The hoppers all swear they didn't see a thing.

^a You pulled the elephant tranq out of your neck & started craving* pancakes. Then your hands** turned into pancakes & after that you don't remember much.

* They call it social conditioning, but it's just a kind of brainwashing.

** This headache is killing me.

⁵ The gravitational^a constant. She found it preferable to attribute his more taciturn tendencies to his steampunk^b aesthetic. After all, Sartre did prove that all interpersonal relationships are inherently sadomasochistic.

^a You prefer to avoid air travel* b/c at certain altitudes unsightly but painless blisters begin to form around your mouth.

^b When you crashed I kind of thought you had it coming.

* Smelling like a dead fish & only marginally less attractive.

⁶ A vomitory, or something remarkably similar. The inner workings of the system will eventually be revealed; all one needs is patience. All the scene kids already know that dementia^a is the new black, anyway.

^a When you dream you remember a time when humans* had antlers. Nobody believes you. Nobody deserves** to be here more than you.

* Its roots lie primarily in an almost paranoid desire to preserve one's anonymity.

** Frightening & small like the hands of young children.

⁷ Full moon mysticism^a & the baying of the hounds. She described the room as sounding 'cadaverous' & looked hurt & confused when people started to laugh.

^a It seemed like a good idea* b/c we'd been awake for three days at the time & you were afraid to close your eyes b/c you thought the caterpillars** might try to wrap*** you up in their cocoons.

* You were there &
you were there &
you were there &
you were there &c.

** This was in 1975,
but quite a few
people still seem to
remember.

*** Claiming to be a
nihilist is just a cop-
out.

⁸ Planetary duality. Reflections within reflections within reflections &c. The orbits alternate between forward & retrograde^a in seemingly random fashion. The salinity^b of the oceans will be marginally less every year.

^a You remember helping your father kill* gophers when you were younger. It was your job to hold the hose** & flood one side of the gopher's tunnel while your father stood at the other end with a shovel.

^b By the time anyone realized what had happened we were already several blocks away, embracing*** in the static.

* The red-hooded sweatshirt clearly signifies that the character is another safely ignored cliché.

** One can achieve the same level of pathos without the piano soundtrack, but it is admittedly

more of a challenge.

*** An infection
most closely
associated with
green stick
fractures.

⁹ A painter of dead girls. Flash-frozen at the height of their perfection^a. It was not enough for him to touch her knee; the fantasy^b was contingent upon her wanting him to touch her knee as well.

^a Part of you can understand the impulse that drives cutters. It is the same as the impulse to scrawl Morrissey* lyrics on your jeans: *I know I'm unlovable/You don't have to tell me.*

^b We thought we were more sophisticated than that with our diet** pills & our fake British accents.

* Especially useful in the removal of wallpaper glue.

** Smash your head against the punk rock. Nobody ever changes that much.

¹⁰ Conventional wisdom says that if you want to snare an arsonist you need the tang^a of turpentine on your cunt.

^a One day you will look back on all of this & realize just how right I always was.