



in solidarity with micheal kimble poem by Danny Hayward design by Sophie Carapetian

Crude Teutons stalk about in the No-Go Area and spit on a flaming rag doll. Welcome to a sheen of generative ambiguity

settling over a UV magnetic cauldron under the influence of a

rampant shadow,

welcome to snow falls in horizontal sheets,

seen through a sheen of hope

even fucking gasps like one,

welcome love, welcome gentleness, sheen of puppet gasping for a stick figure. Outside painted unlit is affected to be fixed. Welcome stick figure, welcome puppet, to a leaden scene of generative ambiguity; reality doesn't have to be anything like this, sheen of despair helps to forget about that. Welcome surface effect including snow and a draft torn open in the leaden streetlight.

Welcome gamut rips through the surface.

Start again.

Sophisticated Teutons stalk about in the Knowledge Quarter under roasted streetlights and spit on a flaming rag doll.

Once again intuitions swing

from the sketched-in lampposts; once again cartoon

veins ripped from history drain artfully into a pronounced gutter.

Stick figures get obliterated,

a Headless Chicken tries to feel something.

The end wears the mask of the beginning

it tore off, groping through the insane waves

of reality looking for the cause of

a fire sweeping through the corridor

of sentimental outrage; middle-

class disembodied screams reopening

as a debased coffee shop tearing

its mask off in a cloud of UV fog.

Now watch the shadow

peel off from its former self, announce something

nuanced about mayors, etcetera.

Will we never stagger out from under the shadow

of happiness, sing it in the street,

in the carnival we had to cancel because

the fascists turned up,

it happens anyway,

everything happens anyway, all pleasure, all struggles, through the snow falling in horizontal sheets, fascist puppets come and go on the fucking internet but we get out of there, listless unreality sweetened by a charade of mindlessness to the uttermost degree of unreality, through the doors swinging in the cartoon tornado; moving past election posters torn down then swept about atmospherically, stick figures thickening in the Victory Square, getting high on listless unreality, now sweetened by a charade, watching the hatchery burn. Just another ordinary day. Money goes where it fucking well wants. Now welcome to the real beginning, when the Shadow resolves into a Shadow of its Former Self and there are two Mayors you need to find: one to kill and the other who will solve everything. How's that for a plot point. Two mayors you need to find: one who will solve everything and the other to kill. You are the Shadow



who is a Shadow of its Former

Self.

the skies burn in lush colours, troops file past in formation, applause rises from the assembled masses of wounded pigs, each more beautiful and more complex than the last, each dreaming of a National Culture more febrile and immense than the last, a change of seismic truth and reality, half-listening to the warm-up speaker, as you push past them, into the lesser exactitude of need, near to Casablanca's Caribbean Cuisine,



and the other market

houses,



and the other street corners, each more grey and imprecise than the last,



each more general and symbolic than the last, past the drunks



frozen

to death and the neighbours you barely speak to, each more the essence of a ferocious contraction in reality than the last, past the imprecise nights, the elliptical, casual days;

past displacement, past sincerity, the stick figures now doubled over on the stairs to The Non-Vacuum. cartoons doing kitchen work in the high street bars, past white triangles hassling small shopkeepers, past teenagers dragged into a vacant rectangle, past the synthetic upheaval of a merely technical urgency, through flakes of rain, languishing in the soft light of a café redeployed as a single, hovering point, past the synthetic urgency of a merely technical upheaval, through sheets of rain, each more crudely rendered than the last, through the crowds of card sharps and delivery people, through youth, an enigmatic glow, and the c19 blizzard that envelops it, through urban life, its arid, ungrammatical corridors, its portals of raw violence, its stunted, out-of-focus ecstasy broken down and reassembled in the kiosk next to U & I Trimmings, its maimed tone, through all of this, this single, clean, inert surface, crowds of personifications screaming or dying in lush colours, headless chickens wearing sandwich boards outside the third tier of cultural rapture, luxury bedsits, early weekday evenings of aggressive mimicry, the official opening of the Retraction

of Intimacy



in the Square of the People, jumbled, kinetic, dazzling and loud.

the Beheaded Phantasms selling CDs near the front entrance, the cold hills at the back, kids on benches,

a cut and paste Ecstasy rising through mounting frost from its car door towards the savage renewal of meaningless

consensus;

past energy, past listlessness, past Low Cost Tropical Food, past the burned outshell of Feeling I and the refurbished facade of Feeling II, past the cut-and-paste memory who cries out to Ecstasy sweeping into the Retraction of Intimacy that it used to be called

A Joy Re-Risen From The Depths of Non-Violence, and the private party of shiftless unreality dominated by the full simulator of collective agency and its inflamed screen of depopulated ironies, set up in the bar on the top floor of Sadism, from which Dream and Understanding



look out

over a contrived ache, premonition of a new gutter opening next door to a new drain and past kfh.co.uk; past night and day, and Abermale and Dabakh, the alcoholics in the churchyard listening to music of an intricate and sustaining indifference. the stagnant detail of schools and council workers dragged into the aroused underside of a grey clamp locked in struggle with itself. as if it were as easy to change life into a music of hurtful and excessive plainness as it is to drill a hole in a dull square and to watch as reality ebbs from it; past anguish, past incantation, the collapsed dancehall and its sacrificed interior, the outlines moved on in the interest of tonal integrity, the cops standing around with the smokers outside the betting shop in the political subtext, just waiting for something to fucking happen, in an atmosphere of lush and expansive violence; and past the Beheaded Phantasm whose slogan is I have no



time for you,

pushing through the crowd of pigs in the wavering, unsteady light of an ostentatious winter, at the deadcentre of the rigged square and its fenced-off area, beyond the medic pumping at the chest of a bleeding effigy in the half-light near the boardedup concentration camp, staring up at the swirl of colour on the megascreen with a painful and unwarrantable nakedness, as if to reassure itself of whatever meaning it read there, insensible to the parade of torchbearers and the kids turning over a car near to the nameless drugstore; past the Beheaded Phantasm



whose slogan is I have no time

for you,



the lip of compassion trembling in the exposed stairwell of defeat.

looking out beyond the mechanical floats to the faint outline of experience rising up in a haze of cremated sweat,

the vein torn out of 2011 and set like a jewel in the mutilated arm of 2016,

arm of 2016,

throwing its shadow over the broken figurines selling brittle concrete masks outside the shuttered restaurants and the literal art galleries,

in the carnival of dilapidated intuition, under an abused sky twinkling with antipathy

and past the ex-repair centre re-opened as a fear of melting and the erased sweat backing up in a similar incident strenuously denied by

a smear of ash,

past the Indian restaurants in the Bengali area; and past the sheets of passive mist rolling over the pawn shops and antique dealers, each thinner and more figurative than the last, each more like a crayon

stick figure pissing blood in a back alley of euphoric indirection than the last; the dotted outlines just trying to get warm, the nameless service depots and small businesses, the teenagers in the basketball court, a life of mere invective just trying to get warm, two parallel lines conducting a discrete exchange in a livid simulation of night; past all this, the windows already shut up, the street aswarm with vipers, the presently meaningless crowd disturbance spilling carelessly into a new decade amid the red-hot atmosphere of over-conceptualised speechlessness, wind tearing through the in reality, despair rising in the vanguard parade of caved-in vultures. the Headless Chicken Who Wears a Mask 2 Survive slipping away, gently into the forecourt of contained grief, the raw clamour of clowns staggering outside the complex bed and breakfast beneath the dull strobe of the same streets and the same skies, slipping in and out of consciousness like the ravaged world in a small room at the back of nothing, amid the first, isolated howls of despair, amid enigmatic bullshit, the exaggerated slow motion of declared empathy, the frozen block of our own prohibited nakedness, the stick figures crowding into a small room at the back of nothing, the tedious alternation of theory and practice in the strophic vertigo of today vanishing on repeat with enigmatic clarity, the thick odour of why bother hanging over the rubber-proofing works and spreading into the hiatus between metaphor and concept, sold off to an unidentified assailant wearing a The Mayor mask over its burnt grate, invisible to the streams ofwhite triangles with drawn faces, the troops standing around outside the billiard hall, past caring about whether something fucking happens or not,

looking on as a puppet is thrown out of The Non-Vacuum and swept along the main thoroughfare by a great concourse of humanity, caved-in vultures at their head, bearing on their shoulders the body of Mayor I, eyes bursting from their sockets like two exploding boilers you need to find, one to kill and the other who will solve everything; we go past all that, past the faded signs of last week's socialism, the howls mingling with the choir of parishioners transfixed by their watercolour stab wounds, amid the conflicting surfaces in the depths of the world, abstract and beautiful like planes of ice kicked in at the front of Feeling II, pigs swarming into setting fire to its hated plenitude; we go past all of that, past where the formal stasis of violent excess dissolves into a dog eating a dog in a side alley, troubled by the economic aspirations of raw feeling going through the motions, or staring up dreamily through a glass ceiling at the ravaged basis of a dynamic world, or pacing up and down the railway siding of an obsolete and predetermined escalation, looking out over plain common sense with its eyes swollen shut next to the immigration advice centre with its files strewn everywhere, we go past all that: past the excessive violence of formal stasis, the facial composites for the Beheaded Phantasm whose slogan is I have no time for you pasted up everywhere, across the huge gasometers and in the rotten shells of the real estate brokers, past the bridge of endurance, from which a puppet plunges into speech and is duly sucked beneath it;

past days going by unsteadily, the downsize risk of an abstract restlessness becoming derelict among the corpses scattered around in the inert goods corridor; through nightclubs in which bombs go on and off wordlessly. I think that in the ease of imagining cruelty on any scale and in the therapeutic restitution of the self to which that imagined cruelty leads I can begin to understand

how much more beautiful it is

to want to smash my own head in.

From damage reflected into its own origin, the struggle to love others radiates

as it might from the torn up roots of an instinct once opposed to fascism.

The Headless Chicken knows it. The Beheaded Phantasm fucking knows it.

Anyone living in the shadow of a non-progressive drive redeveloped

as a retail complex of historical imposition knows it:

even Mr. Interior Minister and the Disembowelled Grid wearing a Mask Because It Fucking Can, even they suspect it,

standing around

outside the ambiguous motorcycle club, watching as you go by, throwing your shadow

that is the shadow of a shadow who is the shadow of its former self

across the unenduring day care centre, the churches and mosques, the fluorescent self-criticism flashing at eye level the street price of revulsion, as you push past the crowds of middlemen, the right-wing sports bars, the meaningless dull light, the blinking collage of de-eroticised services through which a legless antagonism wheels itself past Feeling I, offset by rain erupting into a surface effect

in the concave openness of

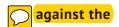
decanted estates and grey squares;

past the primary schools and furniture stores

and throughout the beige locking mechanism of estate agents and construction sites:

blisters rising from the unchangeable hierarchy of any surface, its fucking roots spreading over the vegetable markets and clawing at the corner stores and thickening in the political and moral atmosphere of a net closing; you go past all that, the screwed up crayon face dragging me through the park gates on its spindle legs, the lustreless cavities shrugging and climbing in and out of taxis, coming and going in the members' clubs, asking about the editorials in Pimp Convulsion on the evil decrees of the refugee government, the signs proving cruelty is a gateway to a reality made inexpugnable by delusion, pale stick figures watching as unhappiness bent over by a Tamppost coughs up an itch and is bought up by it, the free market in which pleasure flourishes for a second and is then torn down in 1934 to make way for a fascist brothel franchised to Feeling II under the name A Quality More Complex and More Open than Irony, Darker and More Exultant than Hope with a gift store called The Real Enemy; and past the hateful crests of remorse, the atmospheric extremism of checks and balances fogging up the windows of the derelict community centre, now re-opening as a faithful, nostalgic reconstruction of Feeling I, that Some Stick Figures really are Taking the Piss, bathed in UV or numb with Feeling II, or tearing at their masks, in these streets. among these houses, amid these plumes of smoke, wondering how much of their face will come off, choking, pushing past the soap box from which the Headless Chicken who wears a Mask 2 Survive screams of the spine of history, which speaks to you

in the language of electric shocks or not at all, into the local community, where non-political wishes rot candidly into fantasies of self-harm, amid vultures, blossoming in simulated carnage and the smokers still standing around outside the pool hall after all these years, watching as you go by, throwing your shadow that is the shadow of a shadow who is the shadow of its former self across the street where Dream and Understanding hand out flvers for a demo in support of the Beheaded Phantasm whose slogan is I have no time for you, vigilante pigs pushing past the stewards arriving in advance of the cavalcade of Mayor II, the one who will solve or kill everything, boiler steam rising UV plumes, falling in grey slantsacross stray pages of Pimp Convulsion twisting in the misanthropic crux of perceived life, soup kitchens, road blocks, masks trodden underfoot outside a decayed terminal, the sprung car boot of the lower stage of socialism crashed into the collapsed stage set of Feeling II and an unnatural ideology still trussed up by anaesthesia climbing from it; past all of this, in search either of a total worldview or the direct expression of the shadow that daily obliterates it, never deciding between the two but stumbling along the receding fissure of the convulsion towards its checkpoint and treating that blockage as if it were itself erotogenic, wanting to be as clear as possible, looking at and loving the ordinary world with two dots for eyes, wanting only to hate the right things, only to come out with yet more abstract talk like that, yet more Mayor II talk, yet another reality eating competition talk, twice as fast again every year talk, of legal action



owners of Fealing Eins

talk of an upturn of talk talk of the town talk over three floors in a flagship extremity talk, of free masks with every gulped back ragged fucking protest talk, love talk, fucking love talk, got to love it talk of sorry can't stop talk of a fascist brothel replicated on a pinhead who talks on the Mega Screen through a crayon line mouth of a merger ruled out by talk of a downturn at Feeling II in talks to divest its struggling gift shop, what was it called, real talk, constructive talks, talk of Feeling III around the corner each year twice as fast talk ripped out with Take-Ur-Job on a Feeling I bender, looking up at Feeling II with talk of a human face scrawled on twice as fast, was it the Real Enemy, watching unconfessed Feelings going by on the truncated pavement of raw sensation, with no respite, and no muting the phasing sirens of stagnation and dynamism in the analogical sector of the cartoon economy with its live action humans and its two departments of viscera and masks, blinking amid the UV flares and rootless seizures of a Non-Vacuum non-profit, no joke, no exit from the cartoon economy but a stick up in our own gift shop; the Beheaded Phantasm knows it, the Headless Chicken

fucking knows it,



who is the shadow of its former self

thickens with the knowledge of it,
pushing through the crowd towards the Mega Screen
where Mayor III appears,
watching unconfessed Feelings going by
on the truncated pavement of raw sensation, who look on
into the crowd of thuggish cones
dragging a sphere from a
white plane, chanting about how the underbelly of ecstasy

Survive

is musical, wearing Feeling I Wears a Feeling II Mask 2

t-shirts covered in erased blood stains

in a gutter too deeply rent out

from a comic haze of UV shadows

as in abstract art, class violence and national sentimentalism

in that order, amid these streets

and these chimneys sliding from these crayon houses,

and these crude Teutons making a getaway

in a squeal of squiggle wheels past the closed GPs

and the specialist clinic for people who want their nerve

endings

to look like stricken pendulums, doing a roaring business, this the shadow knows,

this you know, beyond a shadow of a doubt,

past street lights shining on the crust of a damaged idiom,

the universal deluge as a grey smear,

a stick figure drawing itself with no arms,

with a sign saying We make ourselves,

in every sports bar in the irreducible metropolitan

gyroscope, caked with night and panic

and decomposing beneath the floorboards of

a merely technical urgency,

we make ourselves, staggering

into the day with our repertoire of schemes

past squares shooting up squiggles

beneath the UV signs that scream No Win No Feeling II,

we make ourselves,

and above it the city is obliterated,

spat on by the manikin with the snake gut

carrying a briefcase

with the arm that sprouts from his head

we make ourselves;

past the stick figure menaced by cylinders

barely out of their teens,

past cop cars like fingerprints in a mirror;

past a small and recognisable world,

idiotically cramped into the

top corner of an endless clearing,

past Fucking Hell man saying fucking hell man to the shadow of the shadow who is a shadow of its former self, moving past the assembled masses of wounded pigs observing on the Mega Screen

Mayor III hold aloft the head of the Beheaded Phantasm whose slogan is I have no time for you, amid the first, isolated howls of bloodlust, in spite of a class analysis with a charge of 1 or 0, later injected into the roof of the mouth of 2011; and past the torn down wall newspaper, the scraps of its analysis of progressive liberalism twisting prettily in the air, images of the phantom head of the beheaded phantasm rolling its crayon eyes, past ritual bullshit, past cleansing bullshit, towards the dark stage where destiny awaits, too much to bear 4 one mask slipping 2 survive and too much 4 one mind 2 Feel in two minds about. slipping 2 survive past Feeling 2 Much, streets flooded with fake Feeling II, chickens wearing sandwich boards showing shadows u want 2b wearing a Mask 2 Survive 4 what reason but 2 become 2real 4 u to bear 2b unmasked as 4 the benefit of Feeling I wearing a Mask 4 Survive 2 Feelings I 2 Feel and 4 what reason unmasked as Feeling II involved in a shadow II deep 2 survive, formerly known as its former self, aroused in the interior of the ordeal, 2 real and too pulsating, and too withheld, moving past Dream whispering to a uniformed ellipse, and past the Chicken Who Wears a Mask now disarmed and dragged into the grey square; and past another, censored poetry, and past the interruptions of inescapable struggle and inescapable care; and past Understanding in Hi Vis linking arms with graphic

regression,

and past the vision of freedom

filed down to its dark undercurrent, and past the flap of skin setting impassively above the murder capital, in search of a Former Self, drifting through residual perishable categories in the suburbs of prairie fire, hail and drought, beyond the crude heat haze of Mayor I nostalgia, in a world with the fewest possible elements, a few tangles of intense lines, eating 2-4-1 Feeling Is behind an empty stomach mask, 2 real 4 this doubled up world 2 survive; past all of this, down an alleyway towards a clearing where reality is crossed out, past my tongue standing around in your head, just waiting for something to fucking happen, ignoring the small voice that says look up, past small retail, past self-harm, past the maze injected into poverty, past the abandoned districts of tonal implication, past mixed up people crawling on our spindle legs over a collapsing ground line, with out enormous circular heads. guilt flickering in them in an acrid montage without interlocking parts, with no catch-up strategy and no end, processed into Feeling I on the spectrum of Ashen Frost Wearing a Mask 2 Kill that the Headless Chicken would fucking be killed 4, in the cartoon stockyard under the supervision of Time whose Slogan is I Have No Beheaded Phantasm For You, under the radicalised sky, the grey squares on fire; the stick figures marching in the street singing we learned to draw ourselves, then we learned to draw ourselves together we learned to be clever, then we learned not to be clever, whatever;

the counter-drives, the exploded call centres for a distressed structuralism, U & I Trimmings, Low Cost Tropical Food, teenagers standing around, the places we live in; look up, above the piles of killed cops stacked like firewood in the side street off Liteinyi Prospekt, crayon fascism, water colour liberal democracy, thought bubbles crashing like blimps above the elastic skyscrapers, urban poverty in felt tip, indescribable longing driven from the market by cheap UV Cambodian Feeling I Wearing a Failing II Mask Feeling I Mask rippling through the Non-Vacuum re-opening as a vendor of inner stick figure Mayor IIIs preserved in jars, clasping the nameless comedy lever from an earlier life, talking of nationalising Feeling II, of clarity, the shadow of the former self cast in steel, helpless love and fire and smoke, of the Chicken, the Phantasm, the Shadow, Take-Ur-Job, the rich vein of the Former Self, not the Former National Self, not Mr. Interior Minister eating a ragdoll, but the straw people 2 die for, in opposition to the growthless revolt of the talking head grafted onto stunned silence; talking of the fucking class enemy standing around in the meadow lubricated under the anaesthetic of reason, watching fascism come up over the municipal swimming pool, a dead sun illuminating the watercolour factory, pumping crude Feeling I into the sky, involving A Quality More Complex and More Open than Irony shuttered in the collapsed magnetic grey economy of trial and error. stick figures selling Tragic Wing-Mirror Masks with a non-



stick tongue of flame 2 die 4

beneath the shadow of the skinless retail centre stretched to the uttermost limit of Feeling III, coming up in a structure with your principles burnt off, feeling volatile and II, in a relationship with I, in search of a new feeling, stuck in a dead form or in a fenced up neighbourhood, half-awake, clutching a thin strip of vitality, watching the shops mature and then begin to rot, in a dead neighbourhood, in a new form, in front of a fenced off feeling, so fucking close now, though the strip thins out across all of our reverses, and the skin grows back over it: if I do not innovate I will not die, but I can still see it, past the good old times, the crude outlines of a failed revolt against the Former National Self, Mr. Interior Minister, the bread line of powerless Mayors who solve nothing, the rootless seizure becoming randomly accessible, midnight rolling out at the gas station as the headless chicken clocks off and draws its head back on. Try not to beat yourself up over it. Start again.

Welcome stick figure, welcome puppet, to a leaden scene of generative ambiguity; reality doesn't have to be anything like this, sheen of despair helps to forget about that. Welcome surface effect including snow and a draft torn open in the leaden streetlight. Welcome gamut rips through the surface to a sheen of sweat asks you to lay beneath it. Welcome surface effect to a drift of rain in a street anywhere, as if it mattered; righteousness seen anywhere from a leaden keyhole swirls through a surface effect including cauldron. Welcome middle class, also a stick figure stylised as the reality of defiance while a sheen of defiance settles on it. Unreality doesn't have to be anything like this, most of the shadow confiscated by perspective. Reality doesn't have to be anything like this, stick figure gasps out or can't do perversity. Rain lashed out needlessly at a shadow impression implies this like ecstasy

sparks over a gap torn open by detail.

Go-to relentlessness it turns out is just an effect.

Anti-fascists have to tolerate frustration.

Draw blood from the conclusions or get their sweat kicked in.

Welcome Crude Teuton from the sheen of defiance,

to eroticise doubt flame contracts to a blip.

Welcome Moral Crusade Puppet from the sheen of defiance,

what's your opinion on how reality is manipulated.

Cold emptiness of streets stubbed out by generative ambiguity

seems like a blip lit unfaithfully by nihilism.

Welcome pretence of being overwhelmed,

nightly stubbed out bits of you get re-screened;

welcome AI Teuton running a ragdoll;

pore over the sheen lashing out through the streetlight

folded over inside can't do perversity or even gasp for it.

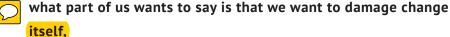
Past another exercise in sentimentalism.

Most of us want to be more than that.

but don't want to be nothing,

nothing is the backlight for the mirror in which

100% crouches and conceals the reflection of its nakedness;



100% change trampled under foot by a flaming ragdoll crying like a cartoon stick figure version of a puppet,

want to kick through the sheen of it doing a ragdoll impersonation



on the way to those who told you that you used the feelings

wrong,

to kick through the sheen that was being used to prop up the sky that should go over your head, if you have one, and go out into the dark screaming that if you don't then why not step out from under its shadow.

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