

The background of the entire page is a light beige or cream color with a pronounced, irregular texture, resembling crumpled paper or a fine-grained fabric. Scattered across this background are several red ink splatters or blotches. In the upper left quadrant, there are two distinct splatters, one above the other, both with elongated, tail-like extensions. In the lower half of the page, there are four more splatters, arranged in a loose cluster. These lower splatters are more complex, with multiple radiating lines or 'tails' extending from a central point, giving them a star-like or cross-like appearance. The red ink is a deep, slightly dark red color.

MERCHANTS OF RICE

RICHARD COLLIER

NUMBER SIX

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA POETRY REVIEW BOOK SERIES

MERCHANTS OF RICE

by

RICHARD COLLIER

university of tampa

tampa, florida 33606

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NOT ONLY WHATEVER

rising dew
 cover wave in silk
 as
 tom bones
 eat

 willows
 in coronation
 through lillies
 in

sewer wells

we have become merchants
 of rice
 dwindling
 for his crest

red fiber rug

 green
 my post surprise night order
 renegade beam
 pierces vacuum

not only but whatever

AFTER READING JAMES WRIGHT

she flys past nature
ringing wires through naked to herons
tiger ear
help pomegranate limb

but

through out
ant eaters

in manilla post

scribbling tensil
under hurricanes

AFTER READING JAMES WRIGHT #2

skin hanging

from books

time it present for wishing

dynamite

i am the grass between you

winged river

naked caressing

but

blank paper

BARFIELD AND BRITT ARE BROTHERS

spiked chariots run up my
 stubbled neck
whirlwinds walk through
 deadened brains

 and
the dry ash forms

 a collar to cigarettes

he only walks sleeping as

 he questions but
 peeling darts

morning hides
 grass blades in

 earthworms

FACELESS CROWDS

plain drift to infinity
with jetting golden icicles

pine homes wait for snow flakes
as a pin starfish surrounds sand crabs

cracks in cement melt
to
one
crack
as faceless crowds

OUTSIDE DR. LOCKE'S OFFICE

winging house
 stops wind till
won't collect tiles
 smoke
windows hide flowers
 steel
pigeons talking of scalp screen
wait
 wheel
 as his wall

TO FLINT

flowered cloud

in endless

forgets womb

star

return

what of jacket
in sea weed

to brighten islands reflected between
strands of hair

sea prickling bite
lurches in grass belt

to flint

garden wolf tinted
horse webbed foot

while erasers laugh

WHITE TAILED PHEASANTS

white tailed pheasants
crawl
through the moon

9

elm slides across my eyes
pine needles cover
centipede tracks

drops of clouds
drift
to poets walking on leaves

sleeping asphalt whispers
to
late night buds

butterfly wings
part wheat fields
while beaks of grass
wade through earthworm burroughs

silk strands call

the wind collects shephers

INSANE LAMPS

insane lamps loom
swords
capturing rugs

tar eyes watch
symphonies

continents of fruit flies
lay

vein maggots

screeching freezer

hammers gladiators

waiting picture walls

grab
drowning eyes

sizzling rain burns homes
while

table tops entertain

newspapers

BLONDE TALKING

11

doors light keep
suitcases on ceilings

mirrors curtains hangs
dancing blankets

wool labyrinth opens string ties
for minu ets

blonde knives wake
glass vacuum
open bibles

ships carry baby cries
from bursting walls

coughing arms strain sun stars

finch talking on

subway

walls

JANE

12

looks within jane
 veins bleeding my neck

dangling stoves cross lilacs

gum wrappers fold ashtrays
while

 picking sunsets
blemish holds night bridge

to passing
 turtles

legs chatter over tea
waiting for clouds to tell them mountains are on fire

but
only Frost eats limbs

grey eyes cooking electricity
 for late night news papers

rats down basements cage
only to growl

mothers boil wristwatches between
muscle

pens use my steel in envelopes of nerve endings

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