

I had been digging in the garden when the rain arrived unexpectedly. NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE. I DID HEAR THE THUD OF THUNDER SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND THE CROW'S CAWING RUCKUS. I SAW A SOOTY CLOUD ECLIPSED THE SUN. AND PAID THE NO MIND. EVEN THOUGH THE FRIENDLY BREEZE SUDDENLY BECAME ANNOYED AND LEANED THE Racemous LOW.

THE RAIN CAME FIRST, JUST ONE DROP, AND A SECOND AND YET ANOTHER, UNTIL I WAS TATOOED WITH MOISTURE. ALL AT ONCE I AM IN THE PRESENCE OF STILLNESS, AND IT WAS WHITHIN THAT QUIET I GAVE MYSELF TO THE RAIN, AND STROLLED INTO THE GLISTENING GREEN. All growing things Refreshed and clear I TOOK MY PLACE AMONG THEM.



THE GRAND YEW GATE

ASH GROVE CAMBRIDGE, NY

IT WAS IF I WAS SEEING THE GARDEN FOR THE FIRST TIME, NOT JUST THE GARDEN OF APPEARENCES THAT I TOOK TO BE REAL. I MEANDERED SLOWLY GOING NOWHERE, IN A SOLITUDE THAT WAS ALL ATTENTION. NOTHING AVOIDED MY INSPECTION. HAVE THE Hostos ALWAYS BEEN THAT TWILIGHT Blue? I CAN'T RECALL. LITTLE PONDS FORMED IN THEIR LEAFY CUPS, REFLECTING A L'Alipeut son 

THE GARDEN LIGHT HUNG LIKE A DRIZZLY GREY SCRIM STREAKED WITH THE SILVER STAINS OF BLURRY Raindrops: ALL THE SHADES OF FLOX LOOK FAKE, LIKE Manigpan DOTS OF COLOR. Securat WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED AT THIS DISPLAY. BY THE Mille Fleur POOL I PAUSE TO CONTEMPLATE A FROG WHO WAS CONTEMPLATING CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF WAVES LIKE PLANETS, ORBITING IN THE WATER'S DARKNESS.

WHITE Shiny Dropslets CONGREGATE PRECIPITOUSLY AT THE EDGE OF THE HEMEROCALLIS PETALS AND UPON REACHING CRITICAL MASS PLUNGE AND SPLASH BELOW TO Smitherenz THE DAMP GRAVEL PATH, WHERE EVENTHE Rude Tweeds NOW SEEM POLITE, FELT SLIPPERY TO MY STEP, THE AIR IS CLEAN, FRESHLY WASHED, GOOD FOR BREATHING.

I TAKE REFUGE IN THE SHELTERING ARCH OF OUR GRAND YEW GATE.

IT LOOKS Shamrock GREEN IN THE RAIN, AS DO ALL THE OTHER CONICAL SHAPED JAPANESE YEWS. IT IS MY CONCEIT THAT WHEN I SQUINT I AM ALONE IN THE Boulogne. IF YOU LISTEN DEEPLY YOU WILL HERE NOTHING BUT THE

DRONE OF CONSTANT DRIZZLE.



2/12

THE REST IS MUFFLED, HUSHED,
THE BEES STAY IN THEIR HIVES,
THE Humming, Dirds STOP
HUMMING, AND THE CRICKETS ARE
IN REPOSE. IT MUST HAVE BEEN
THIS QUIET IN EDEN BEFORE LIVING
CREATURES AND THEIR

CREATURES AND THEIR

chatterings WERE HEARD.

HOW STRANGE IT IS THAT I HAVE

NEVER NOTICED THIS BEFORE.

THESE DRIPPING LEAVES, SOME SHINY ALMOST MOSS GREEN; THE SLEEPING SEEDS IN SATED DIRT WITH attendant Worms; THOSE GREY DYING ROSE BRANCHES; SOME AD HOC TRICKLING STREAMS: AND MY WET BROW. MY HEARTBEATS IN RHYTHM LIKE A METRONOME WITH THE RAINDROP'S PATTER, ALL THESE THINGS AND I THE SAME NOW In Paradise I HAVE GROWN OLD WITH THIS GARDEN.

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Our delphinums FIRST PRIZE AWARD at the Cambridge Garden Show