

**HEART,  
HEART PREY  
HUNTER**

**Marie Silkeberg**

**Stockholm - New York - Paris 2022 - 2024**

I

Could look at her face forever

So quiet today

So quiet

\*

She looked back

I could see in her eyes I had looked at her

Full of love

That my gaze was full of love

Where did it come from?

When did that happen?

Who's the one asking?

Deep-sea night

The bloody language I stripped from silence  
Even if people are wounded by violence  
Fear

The presence and the silence  
So hotly engraved  
Maybe I'm not that tired  
If you ask I'll just respond

Breath

Breath

Will be passed on to us  
Appportioned

Like food  
It could sound like rain

Those who dream  
Those who speak about dreaming

Midnight - blue fields

In the kitchen a man is standing closing his eyes  
I should go out into the darkness  
Find her

III

Try to live twice as hard

As much

Try to live twice as hard

Some parts of the body

An intuition that exceeds experience

IV

B o r d e r i n g   t h e   f o r e s t

A racetrack, vacant

Sound of hooves in the air

Yellow ocher strangely suffused with

Gray streaks

B r o w n   i n k

Images of people

Crying underwater

Images of water

V

I saw her walk through the door

Out

In

Crossing a threshold

In the wind I suddenly could envision myself

Happy

Unfathomably, senselessly happy

Dazzling

The precision in her voice

Tongue

Like shifts in color

Unprecedented scale

Dancing spectrum

Vowels

Pronounce

Consonants

Sound me out

VII

I turned my head

To the side

Like horses

When they

Hold it

Hold it

And all they want is

To r u n



## VIII

What does it mean? I ask

Immobility or silence?

Movement that spurs silence she replies

The silence arising when all

Movement has stilled

It's a paradox I say

Is it? she answers

And? she says

IX

Unnoticed she enters the kitchen behind my back

I startle

Just wanted you to feel it she says

In your body

The meaning of stillness

X

They speak so tenderly to the young horses

Who are afraid to go through the gate

Yesterday a horse broke free

And ran wildly along the track

The alarm sounded

It took them a long time

To catch it

If night contains light

How they

Gleam

The brown eyes

How they

Much

So

Much

XII

A sheen of sweat

A ring of fire

The unboundedness I say

When she's crying in the night

Heart

Prey

How you look against the stars she says



HEART,  
HEART, HUNTER  
PREY

I

So light, your hand, on my hip  
The way you used to hold it there

I'd fallen asleep like that  
In the morning I told you about the dream

How I dreamed my chest exploded  
And was left hollow

The dream woke me

I got up

Watched the night slowly dawn

The cell towers with their red beacons flashed in the distance

At daybreak I lay down next to you again in bed

You said something about breathing

How our breath affects our dreams

The dream



You got up  
Didn't

Turn  
Around

T h e s h o c k w a v e

II

It's only the body

And the body starts running

Let them believe

I'm a tree

Or the shadow of a tree

III

The stillness

It's like the lightning that scares you so

Draw the curtains I said

And went outside to bring the towels in

Before the rain

They split the sky, lightning's flashes

Branching out

Like huge white horizontal trees across the sky

Illuminating the mountains

IV

The underside of your tongue

I sought it with mine

Reached for it

The softest point

c t

t c

Tongue-tie

Dark

t c

c t

Endlessly

V

Their world is above yours

I say on the roof

About the bats' swift shadows

They don't want to enter it

They have their own

S k r i k f ö r m i g

Don't stop

I promise

I won't

Lower

A little

Yes

Yes

S k r i k f ö r m i g

Arches in the landscape  
Shaped by wind, water

Invisible obliquely

Brown, blue

L a S a r g a  
Paleolithic age

W o u n d e d d e e r

Painted with blood  
Milk  
Animal fat

On the cave walls

And under it

P r a y e r

And under it

W i t c h

Whose scent, wind, words, letters

The little girl places her foot on the rope

I arched back

Defeated the beast

The many-armed monster

It tried to coil around you to kill

Kumiho

구미호

Nine-tailed fox

A mother's curse on her daughter

So many curses to choose from

So many curses that can befall a woman

I made it draw back

Into my body

Burst forth inside my body

Like a desire

That never again would be quieted

VIII

ay ay ay ay ay  
cantaba

ay ay ay ay ay  
de pasión mortal

IX

The skin's softness

Bleeding light

Beneath the fingers

Beneath the fingers

The quiver

X

The neck

A neck

It has just begun



They looked like us  
She looked like you

I kissed your breasts  
Your neck

Ear lobe

Ah ah

Yeah, you get it

There will be proof

L o v e  
S h a m e  
H e l l

Mobilize the findings

L o v e  
S h a m e  
H e l l

Because the voices

c t

t c

Would never

Come back

XI

C o r n e r

Kitchen at dawn

A kitchen table when

No one

Is there

Colors are seeping in

Thunder

XII

Fireflies light up the entire hillside at dusk

I made a decision she says in the night

Heart, hunter

And reaches out her hand

HEART, HUNTER translated from Swedish by Kelsi D. Vanada