





horse dream

chestnut mare you carried me to this land where cities are coloured viridian and all our roads are water - cool opulent ovals under *apah* animate lustral lapping baptising perfectly russet hocks your forehead's crooked star sinking over my unfolded palm a salfay of serafina and siberian blue smooth on your sovereign tongue

summer dusk a horse's soft mouth feeding hands capall bán carbon-heart and forest-veins a deep-draped hawthorn mane we were at the fort when hammond gave you to me finest cob ever to cut hooves on connemara rock you stood sixteen hands in a night whose amethyst soul we crossed the reins luminous with insight even when you bolted on that northern headland - lead iron splitting the ground simpatico until you rose above a field of green stars a laughing hallelujah my outstretched arms

the still earth
mingling with mine
a horse's breath

capaillín ársa was there a dream before words pendent on lemon branch like doleful white-faced mares in the ortolan's golden orchard? before lips gleamed with a brattle of broken bit with a silver insouciant *fuck it*? claretcoloured night - fingers opaline in an avalanche of mane our only rudder raddled with moonshine

rain on summer sand
a child writes
the dead pony's name

driftwood horse

through dune grass and distance a mandolin moon lights the breast of a wild swan turning as space closes in to wavewashed bark launched from some well drained rooted place by axe or gale onto sea's high altar where nude heartwood was not sick for lack of land or for brine once beached or now for wind scudded sand as its soul shape shifts under a zinc roof plumed with rust and smoke one star still in the sky as his hands guide a mare from storm torn star bleached oak

piebald pony
tethered beside old rail tracks
silver sickle

Aurorae

Here on the equinox's edge
the night is full of dead horses
their sedulous eyes
and magnesium hooves
soundlessly stampeding sky.
Their vaulted necks and tails
and flaming scarlet manes
their vast unfathomable souls

harnessed to the solar winds.

War Horse's Eye

Birthed at the universe's end
that star that is barely a star.
Still unnamed, astronomers say
it is colder than all others.
In a midnight carcanet
inlaid with only a glim of words
it is a war horse's clamorous eye.
White lightning-streaked sclera
dark desert iris ripe for flight.
Ending the dream a line

The war is in

rising from
a black horse dream
swan song

the horses are gone tonight in the far fields a single silver moth

starlight
though none are here
the scent of horses

narrow lapis lake
deeper than sky
pupil of a horse's eye

bay horse entering the clearing

entering the moon

geranium sunset through trailing mane an old caravan

it is not the storm
in this black november night
that spooks the horses

mountain cloud through a mare's tail the broken blue

the mare's eye still water stillborn prayer white mare looming in weed trees old moon's shadow

morning rain
weeping under birch
mare's mane

the white mare has foaled faded magnolia

that ragged *goodbye* echoing in the hollow above a horse's eye

the timbre

of a horse's heart

winter sea

black horse running rolling away the stone

clouds in a mare's eye the fracture beyond repair

night frayed behind the purple pines a horse's call

alone with a horse's shadow snow moon

worse things no doubt

than a horse being shot

still I wonder about
your last thought in light
bright with rowan berries

