

continued from DETROIT

Pat Smith

remembering when I first lived here
a bath after work & dressing to go out
reading this to Gale in the yard on Benson
wrong words once said quickly
I don't know how you dance
not knowing what to do
or say to fix it
a single 'you' but seeing black
& an 'all' after in her eyes
losing sight of her for a time
Ben's basement
music & movement watching
May from down the block
reading now from the page
but lost wondering if
she remembers
& what makes the feeling
the unsettling
turn to calm
 attendant memories
 accompanying thoughts
time spent HERE
straight from then to now
& the knowledge each moment
part of the same dance
nothing on stage
but here with no notes
one can play on a piano
each time thru orgasm
rest & new movement

heat biography biology

the memory

the lady on her stoop
near May & Top's asking
if I was lost
 catching
her eyes watch me walk
in her neighborhood saying
I am on my way home

Everyday past her stoop
hoping to see May
the next house
see her move
too shy to speak
catch her eye like that same
night she saw me in
her dance
my hand
her transformation
invisibly under her clothes
her smile

she came by the house
& we walked with Gale to the store
but I didn't know what to say
my memory fixed on her walk
under the streetlight someone
said what are you two doing with
that white punk
I was angry but Gale
put her hand on my arm
& said be cool

in the backyard on Benson
silence behind her eyes
she wishes to be inside and stay
HERE it is impossible
her place her eyes cast down

We drove over to the west side
she showed me Mary Grove
where she went to school an
eastsider on the west
side for a time

CARDINALS MOONEY
DEARDEN
SZOKA

near Redford
 turns my
head a westsider
house with no shower
a tub like Gale's

venial white skin
her tiny body
 breasts
 rose tips mapped
 fitting
my fingers grazing
 her warm belly

rigid suddenly
shivering

shriven near
Mary Grove

where Fenkell retreats into
town where I can get back to
the eastside where I can dream on this Mary
home where Gale's skin shows
my hand & thoughts of
another woman make me
cross that Monk line
remembering streets
their grid & my way

 inside Alter under Eight Mile
Wyoming east above the river
the Archdiocese extends
outstate into the counties
Hamtramck & Highland Park
are land-locked inside the
city limits