

Maria Garcia Deutsch

Springtime in Berlin

Sunlight: refracting off the Plane tree's new leaves over a street in Berlin.

In the Platz below, an old man in new sandals sits on a bench, cocks his head to listen to a bullfinch bellow.

Spring's mad blossoms, geraniums in the window box across the way obscure

a child at play.

At midday, the city's pulse: people eating rhubarb tarte outdoors, women carrying groceries, and the shadow of one small bird swoops a patch across the eye.

Sunlight: yesterday over a glittering lake. In a nest large enough for a small child, a swan shaded its head under a creamy wing.

Two men on the bench now, kissing, no--one man is crying while the other holds him, kisses his forehead and looks to see who's looking at them. Offers a tissue, another kiss.

His shoulders jostle, but his tears are a creature of joy. He leans into his lover and smiles. In his face a shimmer of harnessed sunlight.

The spackled Platz fractures, a white poodle sniffs a black terrier, a yellow bike stands alone in the center. A man in orange sweeps, sweeps, sweeps, blossoms into piles, the detritus of new life.

Spring time in Berlin: night enters on velvet paws covered in foxgloves. A man carries a bouquet of tulips and is swallowed by the night. The air smells of garlic. The Italian restaurant down the street beckons with candlelight and white linen.

Fluffy seed pods swirl around the balcony where
I sit and watch as he approaches. He's wearing that shirt
with the small pink flowers on it.
He looks up at me, always something of the Montague
there in the green of his eyes.
We haven't yet tired of this looking up and down,
perhaps we never will.
The silver night holds us there for a moment--
and then slowly fades to black.

Maria Garcia Teutsch's collection, *The Revolution
Will Have its Sky*, won the Minerva Rising chapbook
competition, judge: Heather McHugh. She is a poet,
editor, educator and performance artist. She has
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