

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Hannah Schultz: Two Poems

Hannah Schultz · Thursday, December 2nd, 2021

Crossing the Mediterranean

I don't know why I left
 with a stranger that night—
 smoking a hash cigarette
 in the middle of the street,
 tripping on loose bricks.
 Everything felt off, like
 the end of an acid trip
 when your furniture looks
 like it's been moved two inches
 to the left. Maybe it was
 the Mediterranean
 Sea, the sun's refusal to set
 over it. Or the gnarled
 little dog I found near
 the highway in Morocco.
 I couldn't take him home
 with me so I sat there
 cradling him, tears falling
 like a sunset, my dress
 turning black. And when the night
 was woolen, thick with hash
 and lack of sleep I think I
 just wanted to let someone
 hold me for a while.

*

Pleasure

Nick says that we're inherently selfish
 but he buys the homeless man dinner. I wonder
 if we do these things just to feel pleasure.

I do it to forget the time I hit a rabbit with my car
and kept driving, saw it split to pieces in the rear
view mirror. The time I left a date and went straight

to another. I watch people in traffic stop to help
others, the boy who sells roses on the freeway
exit sells out of flowers, a sign tied to a fence tells

me I'm loved but the homeless man grabs
my hand and puts it to his heart—says it's not beating
because of the chip in his arm.

Photo credit: Taylor Vinton

This entry was posted on Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 at 7:37 am and is filed under [Tomorrow's Voices Today](#), [Poetry](#)

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