

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Scott Laudati: Two Poems

Scott Laudati · Friday, June 18th, 2021

### can we live like this?

it didn't take so long  
did it?  
your story's  
in your  
smile,  
those lips once said  
"i'll  
never  
love again."

i know  
you're a fighter, kid.  
life  
didn't take  
its time  
with  
you. but you're  
not so bored,  
there's still a light  
in there.  
sure,  
you  
can sway  
like the  
breezy  
palm trees  
of your hometown, but i don't  
want to  
know  
if you can bend ...  
can you break?

i remember  
your greasy

hair from  
the plane,  
your legs crossed  
on the white sheets,  
the slow surrender  
of your eyes  
when you realized  
i thought  
you  
were beautiful.  
it was sudden  
and eternal.  
i chose you  
to erase  
all my sorrows.  
will you?  
you see  
life in the raw  
and that makes me  
trust you.  
we know  
when  
we  
find  
our own.

i think  
about what it  
will be like.  
the coffee.  
the date.  
the booze.  
the bed.  
the cigarette.  
but  
i can  
leave those  
for the men  
that came  
before.  
i  
want  
your window,  
to  
watch  
the breeze  
through the leaves  
of those palms

and wonder  
if this life  
actually  
existed before  
you got here.

\*

### **a garden east of eden**

if i could do it all over again  
there's not much i would do the same.  
i would say i love you a lot more  
to a lot less people.  
i would only find brick walls on  
black and white streets  
to kiss against.  
i would buy a shag carpet every day  
and lay in it.  
and i would never eat until my chest was  
thin as paper  
so you could see that  
my heart  
looks  
like  
a heart.

and every time i say  
the house will always smell like fresh flowers  
i'll mean it  
and every car door i can open for you  
i'll open it  
and every cage that holds a turtle  
i'll free it  
and every dog that has no home  
i'll adopt it  
and every door in the house that isn't painted yellow  
i'll paint it  
and every bike that has a basket  
i'll fill it  
and when i promise you i'm over it  
i will be.

but if i said  
i don't want you to love me any more than you do  
i'd still be lying,  
and i'd hope that you were still smarter than me,  
and you wouldn't change a thing.



Laudati – Hawaiian Shirts Banner

*Author photo credit: Caitlin Burke*

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