

decomposition
text

A herd of swans

A drift of....

S w a n S

A LAMENTATION of

S
W
A
N

S w a n S o n g

When I die, life consumes me.

Things become formless, wings shed their feathers and become featherless wings.

My hands, your hands - "i know this hand" - a featherless wing holding the sky.

"I know what it is to listen to this hand. I recognise the softness of the skin"

Blue feet begin to curl like dead hair.

The water they have waded through,

still rippling echoes long after

they have disappeared.

FRESH

Spine surrenders

to the call of gravity

Pulling all the work

out of my body

Deeply giving up

Disappearing into the living ground

Reappearing as -

Water in the air

Mist

descending upon

the fresh heart fallen silent
Ambient merging of
cooling body,
warming ground
No longer separate but
in and of each other
Moving through the mortises,
releasing the cells from their structures
Proteins take a bow and make way
for this stage of death
heaving with most life
Can you feel it?

BLOAT

Rupture Structure
balloons without skin
Invisible and pungent
reaching skyward
Undoing *s w a n* at the seems
Ssssssssssss waaaahhhh
Opening Escape routes
to let it all back in
Inside-outside
the world
through the floodgates
Flowing in like lava
Fly larvae,
the *peak* of the party

I am
turning
into
earth

Returning
to *being* earth
Be earth

I Birth The Earth
Turning

Round and around
A round body
Housing millions
of microlives pulsing
in community,
communally feasting
A toast!
To the humble work of transformation
Unwavering,
Unbiased
(Even toward
the most stubborn Swan)

ACTIVE DECAY

Melting mass,
this waning body
Fluids run and rise
An island emerges
from the flowing liquefaction
Mass migration
of maggots and other beings
Body islands disintegrate
Reintegrate in the dark
as the silky mesh,
spun under the moon
by the silkmoth

ADVANCED DECAY

Can you see?
Shadow in the soil
The ghost of me
Stinking rich
Soaked in carbon
Dripping with nutrients
A mineral laugh echoes
in the earth's cavity,
where liquid death
has hollowed out the vegetation,
bearing the substance

of the ground's underbelly
Swallowed me up
through the shape of my wings
The length of my neck
etched in the ground

DRY/REMAINS

Abandoned form
Nowhere to be seen
Now here and everywhere
Evaporated
Perished
Only bones and feathers left
Resurging plantlife
in the space of me
Island body
singing in the wind
through the new leaves,
and newgrass
I am now tree branches,
cloud,
the air around
My body belongs to the ground and the sky
I belong to decay -
The detangling of everything composing me
Not only do I fertilized the ground on which you grow, tree
I am tree,
I am ground,
I am sky,
I am cloud,
I am you,
I am you

I am you