

Interview with a river series

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river i, ii, iii

the river
might
empty,
expend its
sedimentary
breath
become a
spine
stripped
open
to an
opening
lower yourself into the grasping mud
translate the heat that passes through your
fingers to a reddening sky

the river will drag overflow and sediment management
break the lines of its v-channel
submerge the

open your
mouth
fill
with
the other
crevices
be swept
with
roe scraped
from
the river
bed
stript
leaves
and
sediment

tie them up with the strings of a piano
dragged across the lake (1875)
box them up with the last crated whitefish (1910)
tamp them down in a root wad (2017) they have no purchase

fill your
pockets
with
pebbles
and
fingerlings
remove
your
shoes
fold away
your
words

Short interview with a long rainfall

They like me least when i
They like me least when i
They like me least when i
gather in sheets and slip over the still
gather in sheets and slip over the still
gather frozen earth into slip cracks, crevices,
They like me least when into slip over the still cracks, crevices,
frozen earth into cracks, crevices,
frozen earth into cracks, crevices,
gather under doors, over roadways.
gather under doors, over roadways.
i can't be held. i fill the loose weave of sweaters. i steal the
warmth i can't be held. i fill the loose weave of sweaters. i steal the
warmth i can't be held. i fill the loose weave of sweaters. i steal the
warmth of their door. over roadways. skin. i steal the
i refuse to be held. over roadways. skin.
i refuse to be held.
i refuse to be held.
They cannot hold all of me and when the earth is i steal the
warmth of their door. and the earth receive me. i skim
They cannot hold all of me and when the earth is i skim
dry and cracked, nor can the earth receive me. i skim
i dry and cracked, nor can the earth receive me. i skim
over the earth and its the earth receive me. i skim
over the earth and its
The over the earth all of me and its and when the earth is thirsting roots.
dry and cracked, nor can the earth receive me. i skim
thirsting roots.
To hold me, you too must be loose, thirsting roots.
To hold me, you too must be loose, thirsting roots.
To hold me, you too must be loose, a veining system. thirsting roots.
a veining system. thirsting roots.
a veining system. thirsting roots.
You must lose the illusion of solidity
To hold me, you too must be loose. You must fill your lungs and
You must lose the illusion of solidity. You must fill your lungs and
and stasis. seep into blue. You must fill your lungs and
a veining system. seep into blue. You must fill your lungs and
To hold me you too must be loose or disintegrated
To hold me you too must be loose or disintegrated
To hold me and stasis. you too must be loose or disintegrated
seep into blue. mere particles. mere particles.
seep into blue. mere particles.
To hold me you too must be loose or disintegrated
mere particles.

Interview with the riparian

to dispose the
border of self
cross the boundary
of our membranes
moisten yourself
with my cells
weave your self
vascular out
grow green tissue
until I am gated
I am water. I am not water.
I am soil. I am not soil.
I am grass. I am not grass.