

By the Amethyst Sea

fragile castles—Giorgio Bassani

Caught off guard by a discreet intrusion
jarred from contemplative absorption
in objects that had not disclosed their theme
all work undone he withdrew and looked on
as thought collapsed out of the staggered order
it had lately formed and clunk lay strewn
across a now planar consciousness sans mystery
lacking sense nevermind charm lines scrawled
then overwritten signify no obscurity
but an effaced vestige of the shadows we have traversed.
Left amid detritus he turned back toward positions
that an “I” might take up without recourse
against and for conditions and so discovered
what would become the opening passage.

Frivolous Pleasures, Indolence, Tenderness, Unhappiness

what is the matter—Thomas Hardy

Ensnared in circumstance like any other
saved every time consequence loomed up
by a dispassionate inopportune proclivity
for myopic surrender examining minutiae
combined with an importunate habit
of giving blunt voice to contradictory views
(flung out as bons mots and forgotten
not rehearsed as gambits and deployed
dialectically in a debate over game rules),
those who took the heat for the race
exhausted eating their own dust he just kept on
disturbing the order there, preoccupied.
Who could have guessed what would set him free?
Look at everyone there was to talk to now!



ambush

review

A watercolor illustration of a human skull, rendered in shades of brown, tan, and beige. The skull is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with its eye sockets, nasal cavity, and jawline clearly visible. The background consists of abstract, layered watercolor washes in similar earthy tones, creating a textured, organic feel. The overall composition is centered and occupies most of the page.

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