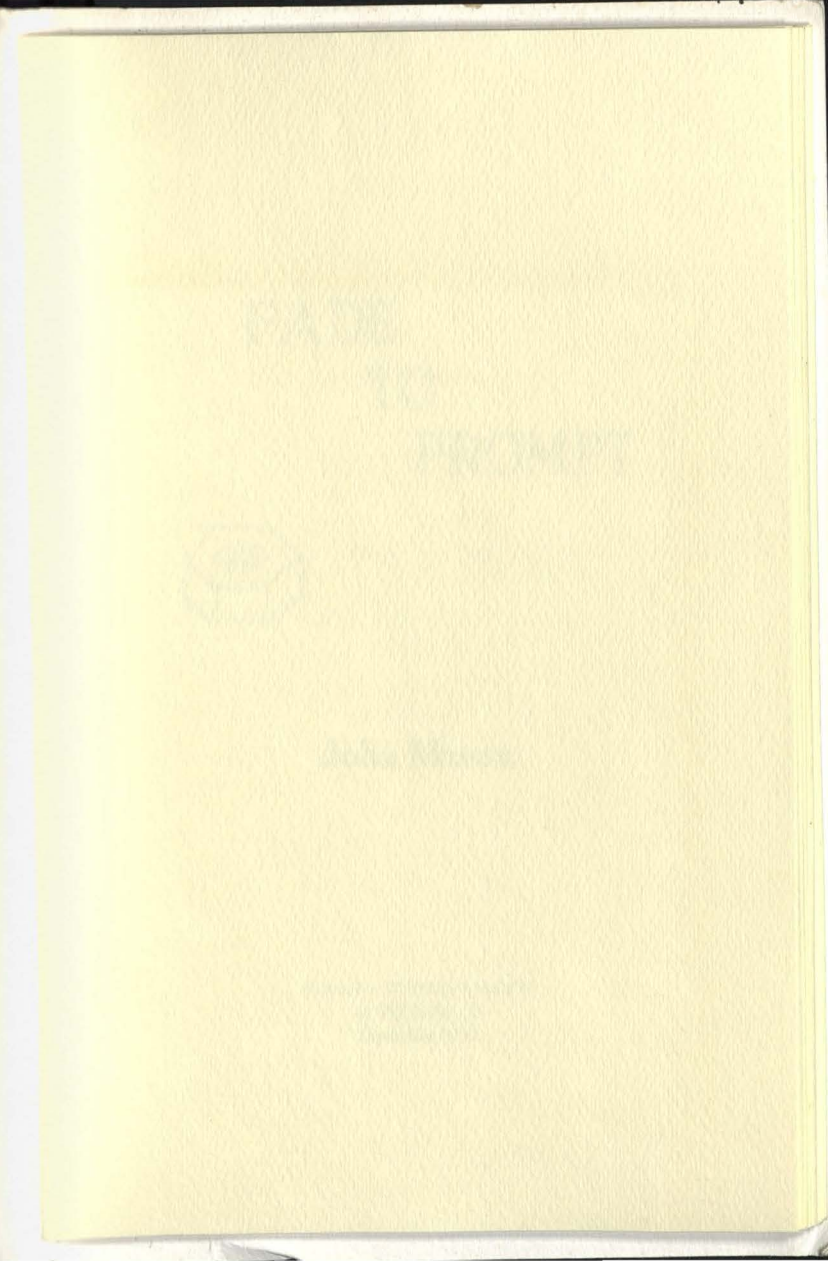
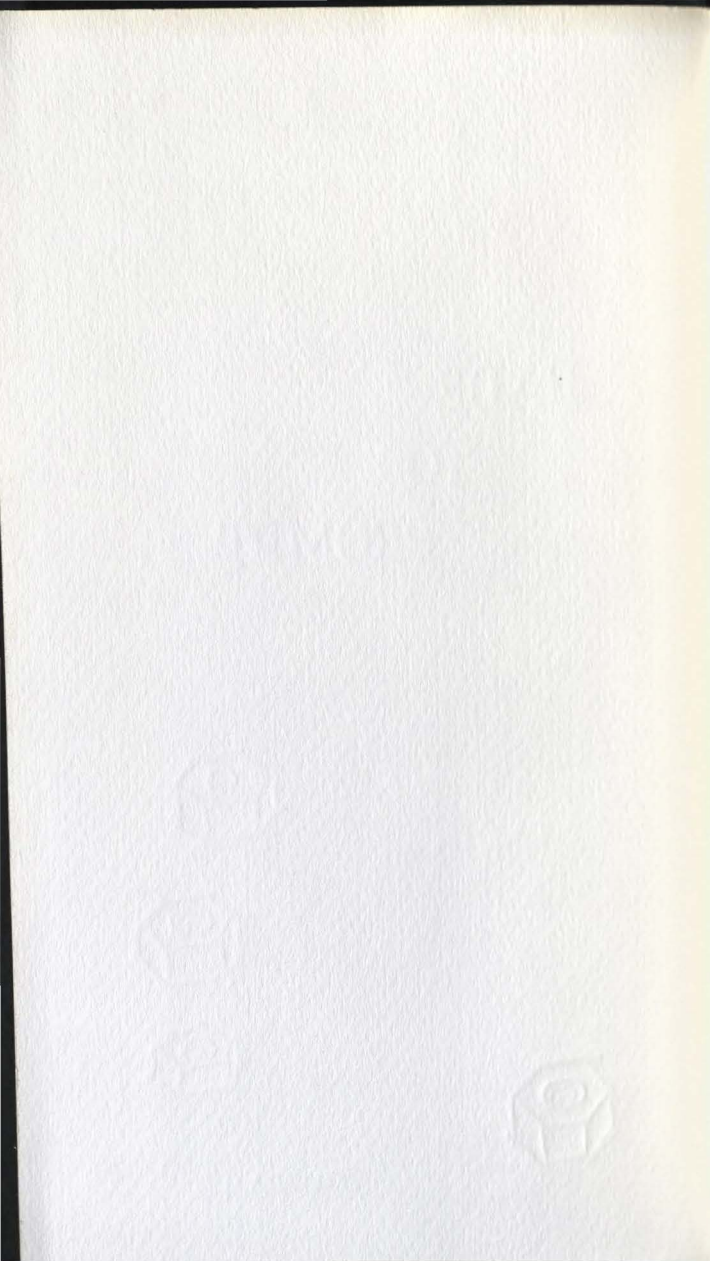


FADE TO PROMPT

John Mason





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John Mason

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for Susan Davies

Red Fred exhumed the orangepeels.
He was very very interested in the designs.
What a fortunate wisdom!
His bicycle sang when the garage was full.
He stood in the doorway when the earth shook.
He excoriated an orange.

"when i get through he'll be smaller than my ass"

she said

though he's six feet tall

well,

he's crippled.

a. he meets his future parents

b. i meet the police

i am escaping the re-birthers

sword-fighting with arrows

taking my fate in my hands

i crawl out on the soft roof:

it doesn't seem quite fair, his new parents driving him in
circles around the rooftop in a golf-cart

and his old self, *still there*, being pulled along behind them,
six feet tall, disgusted and bewhiskered.

getting

dressed-up

a sunny day

the mint

plant finally

has roots

you show me

we

have to

hurry

friends around us

hurrying

blossoming

day we

brush we

tie we

brush by we

will

see them again?

suddenly

"we"

you and i

tiny

roots

battlements kalua boom-boom padua
karumba lumumba etcetera to betterment
catechism barnswallow orchidivorous argentine
fiduciary serpentine exentropy extupamaros exogen
werble collusion exactly assiduous ascending
doubleday salad-bread corn-besotted aromatic
lowlife crusty bejeweled betempered
bestilled swallowed succpted becapitated
howling insistent exintestinal expersonal
calamitous befiddled emptor cavehungry
unaware ersatz

The government will give you a free buffalo.
I was going to get five of them,
to keep each other company,
and keep them on a big piece of land
with plenty of grass i was going
to buy in the midwest, where there's
plenty of cheap land. I wouldn't
want to train them, so i'd wear
a costume something like a beekee-
per's when i wanted to get close
to them, to feed them grass or
something. Hopefully they would never
charge at me. "None of them is *bigger*"
i said to the visitor, slightly offended
when he asked about the "*bigger*"
one.

they were drinking each other's hair
glimmering in each other's presence
they were intimate it was very lovely and
embarrassing made me
want to put away the plastic beds,
one on top of the other

they were drinking each other's hair
i heard them rustle in the woods
they shared the same earth
she had this guy in her forehead then
he was taking a piss
they were busy together

they were small then
curious together
they left kind of a mess, i was just
trying to straighten it up
what did she love then? i was jealous
of her earliest years

human beings? i call them human borings
said the dog, hungry
the police siren
growing in the street
as i moved about the house (empty)
in search of your footprints
the house "bare as your thigh"
(last night you said
"funny you should be ticklish there"
between balls and ass
"the emptiest part of your body")
plants and papers get in my way
want to know everyone but i'm lazy
arranging the pillow spilled
coffee on some dollar bills hung
them up to dry the police are such
cub scouts i needed a friend
"has it ever occurred to you that maybe
x doesn't like you?"
the birds tall as grass
some with skunkheads
bathe in the dogdish
the dog whines at the door
now from outside

HOME

whisper
your shoes are muddy
you forgot to give the wood a basting
my mother shook the tree a little
i was walking up and down stairs
the birds are independent of the shoe flux
fingerprints of heavy footsteps
intensity
the broken necked bird swivelled on its head
trying to get going
we were playing charlie christian
the mole escaped up a well-placed board
"how can you push your own sibling
down in the hedges like that?"

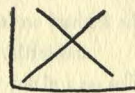
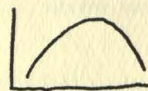
I am cold, funloving, under a grey face.

My dog can read.

rain chill, garbage can empty
thunders the wet birds
sweep the heavens their
compound glopping

IF MAN HAD WANTED US TO HAVE BATTERIES
he would have made us with them.

How are play and work related? directly or inversely



Why should they go for another busline? The longer they
wait, the greater the probability that their bus will come?
No, no, no, at any given moment the probability is the same,
50-50.

It seems there would be a greater probability at the moment
a bus is due than at any other moment.

But that's just not true. The absolute existence of Bus A at
Place B is independent of any prediction, or schedule.

Aprons vibrating to the drill
small boy with orange looseleaf watching
2 drills going 2 looking on 2 areas sunny & dark

"no technology is fail-safe" -- Kennedy, in 3 mile island
hearings

I cant back up no hill
I cant back up hills
I cant back up no fucking hill
I cant back up a hill

Well it said ranches 1-2 acres
homesites it said Gold Springs Ranch
underground utilities

you gotta green light

An apple like you, shining in bed,
a bird lands in the yard,

the feathers on its head ruffle,
and settle,
it nibbles on a plant,
twice.

looks at -- looks around.
flies back up.

"Why don't you think you can do it?"

"Oh, I don't think I have enough in my palette to make a
't' there in the middle of the continent."

a drop of water on the porch rail
winding in the wind, a white mark
on top of it going through transformations.

waiters were singing

the jars were going
as into a room what the falls outside
angry said

but hungry and down

you little tree! up yours
cats wait you to an orange tree
no bananas, i'll trouble you
little put to walk in like that & out

no water can hurt you

WAKING UP AND DOWN

The birds squeeze out their notes like kisses.

I planted a kiss and it grew into a mighty embrace.

Wordsworth sits in an old rocking-chair, humming The Prelude.

manor of speaking, the baron was clumsily diapering

I totally forgot you were on the phone, we were discussing your idea

This vehicle is very fast, Bill (shaped like an upside-down lightbulb) I know, I'd just like to get there sooner

you & Dad can make love, we'll take care of this (they say, OK, fall down behind the davenport)

Somehow this guy I was working with got into Ford Theater, killed the President.

it set her bare behind on the road

don't you guys wanna hear this? try a man-colored shirt on is it possible? -- is it perfectly legal -- to send papers to Madison

"my whole life I've never seen anything like it" -- the two men stood in the dark doorway, looking in -- "reacted with blood and kisses"

a stack of manuscripts "I didn't know about it" "well, We've been doing it for 7, 8, or 9 months."

in his suspenders and black hat he pounded away.

I don't know if you can really do that, suspend conscious thought or description.

a lump of cloth through a round hole

how long did you do it? 1 or two hours a long time, or, oh I could do that, I guess

sleep in a little bunch

everytime I give it to him I get a bad review. What about you -- Well,

row of thin comp books

but you can bet I'd rather have you as a lawyer

a whole new *life of* . . . well, where is it Jerry? I don't know, Stannard doesn't like it

the domed roof -- we're improving its value

two figures interested in dream research Berkeley

sitting at the end of the dock -- a raft

atomic tearguns

the lessons of . . .

sun on a yellow desert eastern

mama pants-bloomer

margin of distrust

crawling up into the rafters where I can crawl around uninhibited

the less you work the less you make

what is the dada for falling in love

some big holy man

"a hundred" squeaked out like a pimple on the skin of sound

maybe my past wasn't so important

I don't know -- "what issues" jumps up like a spray of water

then tonight I'm spending the night with my old lady in
the frame

eat & like blood -- mercy -- on you! (desert landscape)

remember when you told me to pierce under the skin of
what's always going on in your head, I like it -- there's 2
of us at work here actually -- fergus, I dont know his last
name, falls maybe

would Emily Dickinson have done this? at 28?
the textbooks

light kimbrous we can swim

as they walked off into the woods up the hill, he was saying
after them, how did you do it, how did you decide who
got signed ones, she said, "it ended february 4th"

I have to tell Dan to call them & cancel
all those boxes of oxes

"wind in the willows" (little man up by the eyes): "yeah
but his output is a little - uh - uh - "

she had cancer you could see her skeleton practically

now look at this guy -- every damnbasted jerk in this town
thinks he can take the right-of-way

this way

coats off coffee

i wouldn't doubt it

uptempo Over the Rainbow

hot? yes

zebras bark

kicks him in the pants:

front? front!

"winston! i still love you every instant"

side only bums

black arch

begin

it must be money i feel

huge collections

of support

in the shirt pocket i thought;

inevitably short

a cook or a person

next to the rubber band

the window casts opening

and closing knotty concentric patterns

on the shade

no it was two little packets of salt

little red envelopes for special days

perpetually containing

it must be money i feel

you could read a magazine, glass!

they run everywhichway

whether its called for or not

a cycle of infinite

support at the breakfast table for instance

now its almost time for me to go

goes into his house

is that the bicycle key

into a cycle of

knotty concentric patterns

a solar chip

She started crying at Genebern St. The term "to and from" indicates "to or from". Christians Have More Fun -- Especially Later. "He's coming home with me this weekend -- he's my son too." 36 on a house, that's my father's initials, H.E., or his nickname, Gene, or his age when I was 11. Emotional pencil shavings.

I hear your hearing aid. Looking for the dustpan, I turn on the light so I might have the help of color as well as shape in finding it. How could you wear white socks today of all days? When DJ Jim Dandy is coming to visit our school? I drop my pants and reveal: my pajama bottoms: Sick Man. What are some of the signs of this "burnout" you say you have? When I first started I thought it was wrong to spend time on bulletin boards. Now I enjoy it.

Have you ever been a SPAB? White tablecloth floating in dark window. Like so many rolling hills, the houses outside our window. Olive green dustpan. School Pupils Activity Bus. Behind us, an ecnalubma. I think we're in the presence of a medley. She starts crying at Genebern St, a few blocks before home.

Violent words: "Should happen to." Ambulance. Vent. How much does confidence cost? Sixpack holders rolls of film. Plastic collars. The confidence to pressure the school-board. If your balance should happen to fall below \$1000. Let's see, large are on sale, I thought, waving my finger in the air.

The hearing aid gave a high-pitched whistle and the child grimaced in pain. How do you carry your books -- down on your hip, or up in the crook of your arm? Dirty dimes -- they came out of a broken telephone. Don't deserve em. Don't mess with Gene. So this is what the redblooded All American working man does -- cook -- couldn't lose his job

-- lost it. "He'll come around. They all do. When there's no money comin' in, you have to let the extra help go. Doncha? Isn't that right?" Small sun fedora. Crosswalkers, waiters.

Domestic cheese if you love me. The man with the fluorescent orange ear -- how did he get it? From driving at twilight. I learned that I could walk between things by twisting my body sideways. Hospital Audiences Incarcerated. Ed and Nora waited until their baby was asleep, and then he whispered to her, "Do you want some ice cream?" The smell of a freshly dittoed note. Say she ate it. / Say she's satiated.

Lots of Chicano teenagers embarking. She: "You just gotta sit by me!" He, surprised: "That's right, you & me." To or from. She spends a lot of time on a stool at the sink pretending to brush her teeth. Infinite care & development. Rosalie Never On TV.

Doing work up on bricks -- brakes? "Oh me, oh my, lover can't you try?" "Turn left, go past the lobby desk, you'll see a sign." This is all a mirror, my God! Let Me Return To My Old Stocking Ground (shoe's song). I was working at Produce Duboce. Sixpacks Plastics. Memo loves N.B.

The moon dallies with your pierced eyelids.
Two staring frisbees espied the superficial scene.
When staying at Ma's Delightful Tavern
Thirst stain your eyeballs and run down the shutters!
Fried eggs, and lots of green beans
Sadder than a belt with eyebrows, but
Someday, three boys to comb a tv.

Monk tags along, head buried in deep scowl.
To stay or wander away, keep scratching at the old itch.
Winds, daylight, the papers rising slightly on the desk, a
peculiar smell.

Third stain on that apple today.
Frightened by the seams in his own hometown, egged on to
homework,
Saccharine poured on the train tracks draws political honchos,
Sundry articles around, piled in a grocery cart after inspection.

Muddy cuffs dragged in, the tardy members of the fleet.
Twisty and mild, changing to feverish in the seventies.
Winnie radioed in, the balloon was caught on a hill,
Thirsty, and entirely willing to be let go.
Freighter leaving for Oahu, fireeaters on deck, madame
Set her day and went back to sleep, dangling the phone in
a bowl of water,
Sunnies nipping at the cord as the dentist rants about dixie-
cups.

lunge or lurch, which one?

scared of wax paper

when idiot is no longer a term of affection

the girl who eats her pusher

i both bought em off Enrique! yes i did!

each new vehicle makes up new lanes: skateboard

i thought i'll have a vacation

gargantua showers, and cleans the shower

you dont wanna change just to get a chick, do you?

you want her for yourself!

— two of 'em! i want two of 'em!

doubts & regrets one leads to the other. i was thinking
i was having d's when i was really having r's

the beehave

Curse you snake, cried nut. Can't you go and twine & mingle someone else's vineyard? The gentlemen walked through, wearing their card-gloves. Noah spat. He fixed his eye on the edge of the board, and it was warped like the rest of them. The business of the whale! We would have to have one saint on board, that would be hard. He pulled at his beard and got a nasty sliver. A bird arrived with the eight of clubs in its beak.

FAUCET

The cold potato walled in self, leaking out sprouts, dotting line to garden, the tractor coming up from little-land, the "tock" of the stars, the visitors coming up in the back with their arms out, their bodies all leg.

fade to prompt
a blind child dances
on the sidewalk in fear
hoolock! hoolock!
here is the order of the buses
you make me sick!
bending the leg at the knee
a earnest living
causes a forward reflex
so its just as good a job he wasn't here
a hope chair
i thought it was a smoke
wayne was handing ohara,
it was a green twig
i thought he said will
mama who *am* i?
rubber floor no slip
oh, i see
i wanted to stay awake
skylab goldrush is on
i thought he said will
i thought he meant,
what do you want from me,
leave me alone,
but he meant,
who am i *imitating*?
i'm putting this girl back on a plane
it is a manly sorrow.
these tears never grew in my mother's milk.
i'm just a kid on the bus with the heebiejeebies.

inside you there is a room. i've heard about this room.
it makes me want to visit you. after your abortion you
told me, "they were twins and they were there in their
little room together." i thought this was babytalk, then
i heard someone talking about when his wife had a baby,
he had to go inside her and clean it out afterwards. i didn't
believe it, i went into an office and the man pointed to a
diagram with his pointer and said, yes, it's like a cave and
after the birth the husband goes into the cave and cleans
it out.

your sister was showing me the room where you played
when you were little, with a boyfriend. i see him out in
the bushes, taking a piss. "they were drinking each other's
hair" she explains. something makes me want to put the
two little plastic beds away, one upside down on the other.

What stop is this?
Dianville.
Oh.

What stop is this?
Danville.
What stop is this?
Danville.
Danville what?
Vir gin i a

Boy John you drank it

I'm pissed about those buttons

A funloving group gets on, 2 AM

A conductor would not be subjected to
duties of a stewardess

Progress keeps its place

Spitesburg next stop

Art amusing

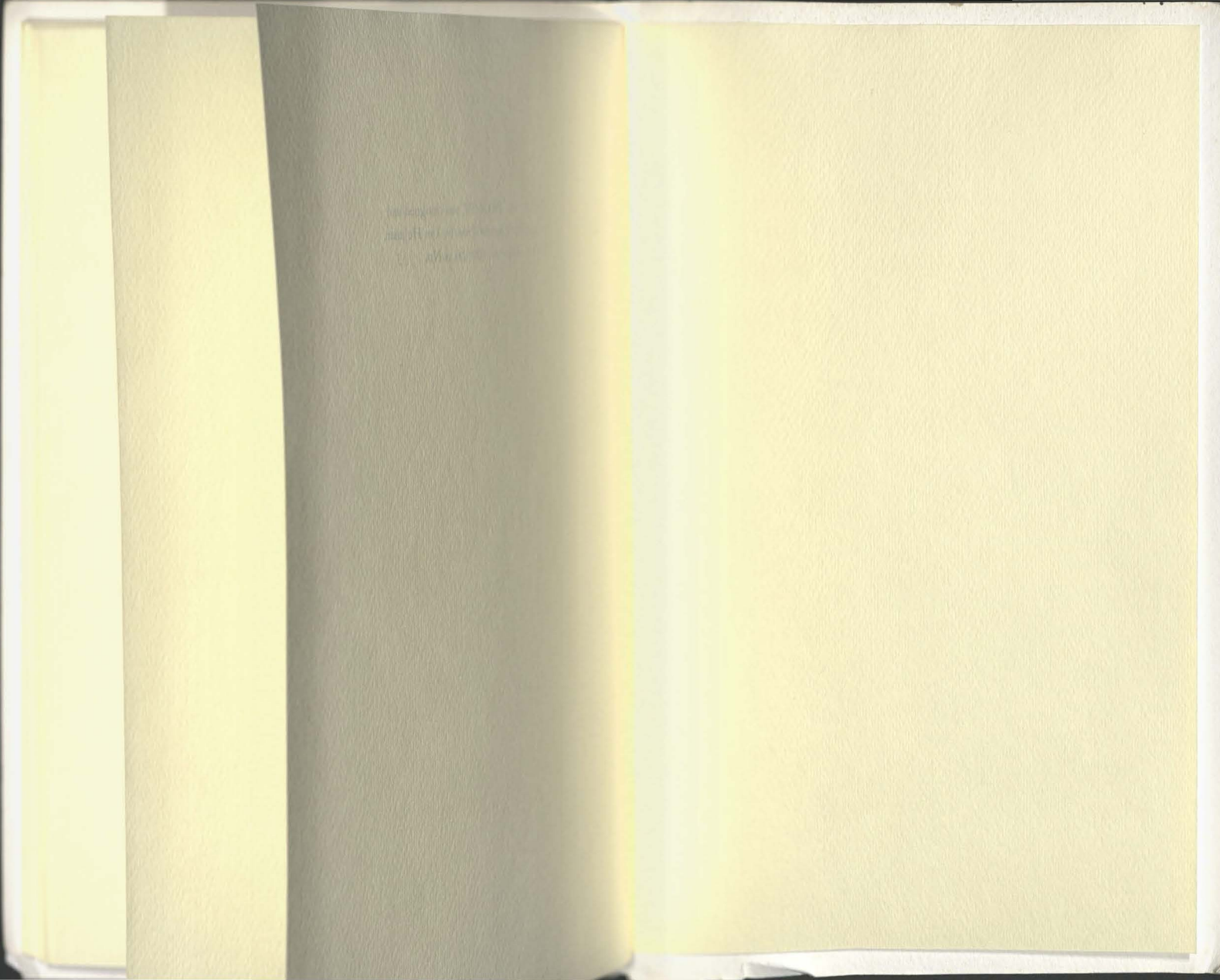
Light bulbs in trees for miles

A house, all by itself
and the train stopped

and zen begins yesterday.
could xerxes drive?
well, even valiants fail up grades
that have sweaty irrigation,
rice, jam quills, kale,
partly lagging, otherwise mostly
neurotic.

not meant out late, pal,
kicks quite jarring.
right! i'm sore. hello, tybald,
give up fidgets, vinny's
elevated,
wild doings?
x called you, but zip about . . .

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