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## Dialectics Against Silence

Graham Kershaw

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GRAHAM KERSHAW

## Dialectics Against Silence

*I: Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, May*

Ducks silhouette the glittering foil, dogs lap  
silver mirrors, girls throw bread and scream  
at the hunger they feed, shivering legs licked  
by white wet shadows. Dialect's voluble stream  
forever runs under the dark arch of mind,  
black ice-cream scooped in lungfuls of tender  
bruised vowels, cold silver consonants biting  
the frosted tongue, heart's wet fingertips  
stretched to read the cuneiform braille patiently  
cracking the gritty Millstone crust of silence,  
so that enlightenment might flow like blood  
again, so truth might shine like dew.

*II: Denmark, Western Australia, December*

In the wake of great violence, the inlet is  
an escalator descending, molten steps folding  
into sand's sleeve. A few last leaves highlighted  
by moon, car, kitchen light, then they too  
are snuffed out, the wooded hill pared  
to a point by the censoring grey-blue blade  
of a tempered sky. Karris, shaken by parrots,  
play the old mad war melodies brutally,  
wordlessly on skylight's black piano, still febrile

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with the glamour of stars, symphonies sadder  
than centuries, and all the time we hear  
the sea's great engine room falling, falling...