YENYENING LAKES EVENSONG 1949

This opalescent-streaked horizon
    is what you saw across
          a bushlake where you had swum.

It was sweetwater, unaccustomed,
    and treading water here you awaited
          the hushed rush of wild ducks landing

unheeding of the waiting shooters’ guns.
          But still it is not yet time. Eventide’s
          reddened bandage scarcely wraps

this lowland of lakes and woodlands
and the skies in darkening mauve.

2012

SUN MUSIC

Beginning
    is a red dawn on level scrubby plains
when the mulga tree bursts
into bright Mosaic flame
and the small birds
in the Spinifex hop for seeds
when the brown hawk
makes her first pitiless dawn patrol.

Climax

is deep afternoon’s shimmering breath
on monadnock’s ancient
summit of stones
on the desert pavement’s
hammered metamorphic sheen
in the white intensity
of the salt lake’s glare.

Resolution

is the blooded socket of the fallen sun
speared by branches
on a gashed quartz ridge
haemorrhaging across
these sintered flatlands
leaving mullock heap
and saltbush clump
stained with its crimson touch.

1972