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"photograph by Greg Fuchs www.gregfuchs.com"

CAICORRAD

Frank tries to ignore
the girl living inside
his mattress

she never shouts

never makes demands

he would talk about
the Mets with her
but he's afraid she
might never shut up

Frank can't
masturbate
as it is

✱

Frank loves his Coca Cola bottle

she loves him

he loves her fine lean waist

she loves his rock hard nipples

he shoves his cock in her little glass mouth

she cracks and

they're both in trouble

✱

boulders
rolled
into the
yard

a pair of dice

Frank climbed the ladder
to find a five
and a two

he never saw the hand that threw them
swinging down to swoop them up

✱

monkeys inside
Frank ascend
until his
bare
face is
covered

✱

Frank's diary
returned
by mail
when he'd
lost it on
a bus

"Dear Boy come to Jesus"
penciled in the margin
for 224 pages

✱

Frank knows a
butterfly
who wonders
about her old
caterpillar
friends

✱

Frank is sad

her dogs like him
but she doesn't

he likes her dogs
but they are
forbidden to
visit him
without her

on the street
they bark for
Frank while she
looks away
pretending they
are not an
extension
of her joy

✱

"where these sharks
roll their
appetite" Frank
asks "am I
appealing

finally

to someone?"

✱

on a blind date
Frank speaks with a
hand over his eyes

he's not afraid of
beauty it's just the 1st
time you see someone is
the 1st time

after that it's
the 2nd, 3rd, 4th
until you lose track

he orders a plate of peas
and smells them smells
them smells them

"aren't you going to
eat your peas?" Frank's
faceless date sighs

"no, it's too sinister how
one experience is quietly
consumed by the next"

✱

all the cats

Frank dropped
as a boy
from the 33rd floor
came leaping back
in one runaway lion

Frank hid in the closet
finger to his lips

the paw's
open
cleaver
swooped under the door

he lost
one damn fine shoe
and the
foot

✱

the most intelligent hat
told its secrets to Frank's head

everyone knew it was the hat
but the king said no way
and the colors of achievement
draped Frank instead

the following year
the hat held its breath

Frank could barely spell his name

✱

"we're 80%
water" Frank
says "20%
canoes
can't
ride"

✱

the firemen were too late

Frank's house burned down

his neighbors circled around him

"you will lose everything
and everyone
you love today
Frank!

and you

deserve it!”

✱

Frank was embarrassed in the bar
when his skin began to smoke

“hey man!” someone yelled
“do you need the fire department?”

everybody laughed

“no” he said with
a nervous smile waving
his arm to
clear the smoke
which only made it worse

“it will pass” he said

“it’s just the
condition
of my soul

it will pass”

✱

Frank was fired from his job today

he wouldn’t wear clothes

he said “but you hired me without them!”

“yes” they said
“but we thought you simply
needed time to find them”

✱

Frank shuffled the cards

he noticed the Queen of Spades
with a small tuft of pubic hair
peeping out her robe

he watered her
till she sprung
a long vaginal beard

he whispered everything to her
EVERYTHING

but when the syphilis first appeared
Frank cradled his cock in tears

no blood flowed

so he gained little satisfaction
ripping off her head

✱

Frank yawns “you’d never
know I lived for years
in the upper
left hand
bureau drawer
with a broken
spring and
corroded
batteries
in my neck
if I hadn’t
just
said
so”

✱

in
Mannequin Forest
Frank yells
“TIMMBERRRRRRR!

she’s for Macy’s

they need a set of children too

leave the saw
you can yank ‘em by their necks”

✱

Frank found
a list blowing
down the street
with his name
between
beans and
toilet paper

further
down the
list was
Elvis
between
cologne and
tampons

FRIGHTENED
Frank bought
beans and
toilet paper
to practice

Elvis was a natural
of course

✱

Frank chops both thumbs off

he marches into the boss’s
highfalootin’ office

“I’m no longer primate!” he shouts
“I’m another species!

I no longer plunder and swindle!
I take myself from
this den of evil
a poodle!
a rat!
a lizard!”

✱

Frank’s skin turned yellow
orange and red
with the maple
oak and sycamore

his wife secretly
checked
the life-insurance policy

he arrived at
the doctor’s
half-blind
brown and crackling

“it is no mistake
you have come to
my office thirty
stories above
the city” said the doctor

“relax by this
open window

Autumn’s
ancient law
has no
escape”

✱

bees fly
from the scalpel’s incision

Frank’s kidneys

liver

even
his heart
held in the doctor’s hands
thrum with honey

✱

from the pond floor
Frank watches bubbles
form constellations
on the surface

“you have no gills
you have no fins”
the bass
whisper in
his ear

“however we seek
another’s weakness is
our tyranny” Frank says

he offers the bass a
sandwich laced
with hooks

✱

Frank plays
chicken with
a freight train

it hits

his Spirit’s
left standing

sure of
a miss

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