Memnoir

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Wild Honey Press
Cover illustration: Venn's visual representation of randomness generated from the first 707 decimal digit of π (1888)
For Tina Darragh
MEMNOIR

Mem: What's our relation to the past?
Noir: Same as to the future.
Mem: Then what's our relation to the future?
Noir: You don't want to know.
Mem: In other words the jig is up.
Noir: In other words the jig is up.
Curiosity and the Claim to Happiness

Studies have shown that the brain prefers unpredictable pleasures.

Present Tense

it's said that it happens even in nature e.g. during the childhood the mother might have (had) a taste for film noir and take(n) the child along

(my machine is hooked up to (my machine) things inaccessible to the precise methods of e.g. a Brazilian bookmobile being hijacked in a dark underground garage fiction is precisely what they now call non-fiction too get a bit too presonal i.e. Eurydice my dark darling don't worry I can bear your not looking at me she cri(ed) out i.e. hoping it (was) true

(now) (here) together in the mix of the modern metropolis Rio Vienna Paris Tokyo Moscow Lagos New York Bombay London Mumbai he and she both feel close to the idealized neuron in the book
some of the diffuse sensations of early childhood may still surprise us as we consider their names e.g. joy frustration shame anxiety love honor rage fear anger wonder curiosity disgust surprise longing humor pride self-respect fear but not terror fear but not horror

the mother might not like surprises e.g. wanting to know for how many generations a Negro in the bloodlines can produce a “throwback” the child later recoils this use of memory does not know what to say for a very long time The soul is inwardness, as soon as and insofar as it is no longer outwardness; it is memoria, insofar as it does not lose itself in curiositas.

otherwise one could ask at any moment e.g. in what story does an uninvited goddess walk in and roll a golden ball down the hall or why not enjoy the story of lovers in the same vein from different centuries but in the same story from different worlds but in the same story I write down my dreams this was not one of them i.e. for a very long time the child want(ed) more than she could say to not want more than she could say i.e. impossible according to any simple formula for mirroring formulas
if

but for the accidental clause the swerve of curiosity on the monkey bars the flash-bulb memory the wall of fire outside the window and or of something as vague as living in time for a time near what seem to be others near things swept into the stream of self-translation in the coincidental flow of events near disregarded syllables suddenly audible vol up sudden outburst of song Ha it's too funny how funny it is to feel sometimes and not others how to remotely sense the beautiful violence in the brevity of the spilt second glance

without yards of shimmering adjectives
description: is description possible can a sunrise be described by yards of shimmering adjectives

While the curate was saying this, the lass in boy's clothing stood as if spellbound, looking first at one and then at another, without moving her lips or saying a word, like a rustic villager who is suddenly shown some curious thing that he has never seen before...she gave a deep sigh and broke her silence at last....Doing her best to restrain her tears, she began the story of her life, in a calm, clear voice.
without the carefully constructed container
story: is story possible can even a portion of a life be
contained in a story wouldn’t songs be better to repair
the brain

if it’s curiosity that draws one’s attention to curiosity even
the other animals like us even in nature if for only the
space of time at the watering hole during those times when
it’s too wide or too narrow for ambiguity so that the range
of genres will now include horror (there)

this voltage
through the body is brought on by the senses strictly
speaking in logic nothing is accidental the world divides us
into seekers after facts seekers after gold dig up much
earth and find little or less than a port royal stain it’s super
being natural not wishing to symbolize the wish to return
to feel as much at home in a fortunate sentence as an
unfortunate century
this may yet be seen by some as the necessity to invent a game in which it is necessary to replace all vowels with x mxgxcllly txrnxng prxmxtxrxtxrrxr xntx pxlxtxblx pxst-pxst xrxny xtc

or that it is not an idle game to forgive that they or we in the slit second of a single space to reveal the tear the tears in all their ambiguity tearing through the photo album knowing and not knowing all that is is not there with only a few clues to go by fake cheetah fur fake cowboy hat a small page of notes a book that can be open and closed at the same time with the ontological thickness of a scratch and win sheet

look see the blue and yellow and green space at the watering hole the animals slurping the animals rolling in the mud the archeological trace of some thing less visible than a zoological park the curiosity of the child the timing the timing is all that is off

it is that that is the problem with the timing that it is always off while it cannot be off at all
that is the he the father to be sure that the she does not choose the wrong thing and vice versa for the she and or the he again

and so to not choose the wrong thing can she choose nothing nothing and all given the diversity of forms that even a soap film or any other minimal surface can at this time at or on this point that is not an Archimedean point

or to consider the mother Archimedea on point to point out to all in punching out the holes according to the instructions that could have (been) the point

that point will surely eject the wild idea to try to say that I have (had) a wild idea just as a hummingbird flies by just as I think that's a fine deluxe model bumble bee engine with mechanical wings beating the sky in a wild idea I once (had) in another hot majestic interlude containing profanity violence and graphic photos of murder victims before the clouds part and the sun turns into a coffee mug or a doughnut
and but though over the years mathematicians have (been) able to prove that every noninteresting closed curve is spanned by at least one smooth minimal surface or surface reflecting the twisting of the sun into someone's bird's eye view or the limits of any horizon always being a point of view just like the one unflooding here

the first question on the examination turns out to be drymouth #2 pencil poised What license does the program of curiosity as the motor of progress of the sciences give itself and or us? not to say them

and then the child may or may not find that to find one's position on the graph using xy coordinates one must reconfigure the geometry of attention in order to comb the snakes from her hair
Present Tense

they would go often to the movies a hot majestic interlude containing profanity violence graphic photos of murder victims in black and white and bitter irony of if

in this the context of the extreme sport of everyday life it is necessary to put it all in the context of the extreme sport of everyday life

or the most extreme object of medical curiosity that one could hope to hit upon here the clarification of the connections between the way the body moves and feels the way the mind thinks and feels if one dares to seek these bonds in the brain of a living animal or one in which cell death has been detected only after kicking the subaltern in the crotch

to zoom in on the scene in the darkened room on the screen the shadow of the murderous aunt is moving across the screen along the far wall of the screen one can tell it is the murderous aunt from the feather in the hat and the dagger in the hand of the silhouette of the shadow on the wall
or the scene in the neighborhood playground the boy falling back the boy falling back and back after being shot about to take another bite of his Mars Bar or any other chocolate treat with a paper or plastic wrapper in the country where many fear(ed) God & AIDS & Weirdos & Elephants & Castles & Car Windows & pop goes the weasel on the way home from school

is it too trivial to ask if it is more tragic or more poignant that the child had hoped to finish the candy bar before he was shot can the tragic be poignant and vice versa and verso and recto and the pant cuff gets caught in the spokes and the altern falls off the bike and the optics of the horizon is questioned on the spot by the Mennonite German Italian who feels his father watch(ed) to many Sinatra movies and put too much ham in his omelets

catastrophe theorists say that if we back track along the previous path there will be no catastrophe this time
coming out of the movie theater the world the world is bright too bright gnomic present tense tensile everything happening at once the world is full of its own mute history the fatality of reflection the fatality of nature and culture the fatality of the German sciences of Kultur the fatality of the mute history the fatality of of the preposition reaching out to its object even as it (they) slip away

the preceding is much too sentimental to accommodate the experience of the child is fatally wounded the house is a mess the streets are littered with trash the lawns are littered with trash the grass is dying shrubs are pruned to look like gum drops grass is mown to look like an indoor outdoor carpet replaces the grass up the stairs of the stoop onto the porch into the house the noise is incessant the grass is broken the broken glass is littered with people

what a pleasure to dissolve at the spot on the graph where the logic of what people are supposed to know don’t want to know don’t know enough to have any opinion on the outcome of the beer belly bakeoff intersects with the logic of what people are not supposed to know before or after the crime scene (has been) cleared washed down scoured repaired reconstructed renovated restored rejuvenated retrofitted revenged resettled unrecalled
also memory as in trying to get to the fire the way to the big light the photon points the way to itself

Present Tense

start with a yellow pad a yellow #2 pencil a summer song an orange rabbit a rare breeze a yellow song a summer rabbit a zebra finch etc bring books next time what is it that you're expecting these circular semantics to say to run in circles the word exceedingly is interesting here in these circular ruins this offset press offset print this sagittal section this dorsal fin this anterior view widening circumference this widening cross-reference will this inference make me eligible for parole

do you want to say something about that do you want to say something about that that makes you look smart in your smart outfit your Nehru jacket your horny glasses your upper crust Englicks your queer subaltern view that is as good as words words words make me a rose
ergo to stop fooling around in the middle you must locate three coordinates from which only employees allowed beyond this point when unexpectedly a wind might come up and might go unexpectedly away but not before bringing certain things and taking certain things away

quiet little engine beating a pulse across the sky pick up your #2 pencil write on your yellow pad getting to the bottom of pot luck there are limits limits to everything but to refrain from forced propositions is still brave

another example of the way in which a form might not reflect a purported fact or facts I drop(ped) the tendency to begin sentences with I long ago she claims anything that beautiful has got to be evil failure to find an Archimedean point defined again with nothing larger than a phonebook found in the debris
is a method unavailable to the more discursive humanities
gee whiz pop gimme a break the book is call(ed) *Toward Civilization in America* the story goes that we in America get the fuck out of my space motherfucker can all divide a square into two other squares given the average city block we don't have to look or sound like the neighborhood or the country we grew up in the people we grew up with for more than one generation or so this is no Goldbach's conjecture this is no Goldberg variation this is no gold bug this is the story of the good life the end

they call(ed) it a brutal dehumanizing crime once again a true and tragic story the movie version is rated for language sexual situations several decapitations cruelty to animals the memories of former surroundings are the scenes of the most heinous crimes

ok this is the vocabulary in which you will be locked up for the next ten years there is no good behavior clause the study of memory tells us that a person is a place after all
one thing I try not to understand she said is how gravitation works or where the force of attraction comes from but just to feel that a body can make its presence felt instantaneously throughout one universe or another her foot swings out off the curb as she looks back exploding into another dimension as the letters move across the line

she look(ed) back over her shoulder to say persist and what can happen will I live by this and yet I hardly (knew) her at all and yet there is the consolation that early mathematicians were more interested in examples than proofs

Present Tense

screens

loaded with blanks bruise blue skies rash sunset eyes elide gun and index finger bomb and rose burst into bloom how to tell a story without telling lies leave it unfinished either or complicate it beyond belief
now during one of those periods when life seems superficially friendly the more you know the less indigenous aquiline twilight of the sort that divides movieland from
to love every visceral dichotomy like the mountains we walk(ed) and talk(ed) while we they (were) roasting wild boars with tusks removed on another continent that did not come to mind that may not seem to be but is the love of definition insert here almost any definition will do for the purposes of this kind of love one just wants to see anything at all and then to couch it otherwise

is to slide more easily off the hook start with a yellow pad a yellow #2 pencil a summer song an orange rabbit a rare breeze a yellow song a gold finch a summer rabbit a fresh breeze etc bring books next time what is it that you’re expecting in these circular semantics these circular ruins this offset sagital section this widening circumference of this widening cross reference this crowding of inferences will anything make me eligible for parole
just that
a body can make its presence felt instantaneously through out one universe or another (his) foot swings out off curb as (he) looks back (she) looks back as the realization occurs scenes like these can contain profanity violent car chases minor sexual situations glimpses of nude supermodels strewn entrails rape

it's one of the things I live(d) by along with something a woman (was) about to say in a London cab we (were) sharing a cab I kiss(ed) her she (had) a woman's eyes in the made for TV movie of the movie that contains relatively tasteful vampire assaults this may seem to be a story but isn't

even if she (didn't) like stories maybe but could this case be different could you know it is a case at all like the ones the great European artists and thinkers abandoned on trains why refuse entertaining irony wry humor display of imaginative aeronautics acrobatics surprising and illuminating implications drawn out of line drawing of
let's exorcise the crime in the coincidence by turning the coincidence into a fact (fact) the fact into a symbol (transcendent fact) the symbol into a moral tale (transcendent symbol) the moral tale into a conjecture in which every whole number is factored into imaginary numbers thus avoiding the problem of primes (transcendent moral tale)

the box contained but the squirming matrix of habitual value-laden self-perpetuating practice (aka can-o-worms) all but invisible until something dramatic but goes awry is in fact but the continuous present of and or but either or experience of history

she (said) this (was) her favorite line in the movie before it was cut fast food to the quick not to worry warning contains profanity S&M candy galore and or difficult subject matter for children under thirteen
the unnoticed actual condition
of the life the erasure of coincidence the prevention of the
crime the irruption of the coincidence the complete service
for eight the rise of the participles the unpredicted fall of
the prepositions the fully rationalized forms the gummy
bear erasure the formal containment of popcorn and coke
the sweeping of the aisles between shows the warnings the
contains trapped children brutal surgery savage war scenes
sexual assaults profanity violence graphic photos of murder
victims wounds of race and class excruciating paper cuts
one thing’s for sure one thing’s for certain one thing is
standing for the thing it’s standing for just (sped) over the
horizon spewing technicolor exhaust long (gone) they stand
in line and watch(ed) it’s vertical phase fall into and out of
ruin in this symbolic logic is the abstract(ed) multivariable
calculus of a story that perpetuates itself only by means of
Kummer’s unique factorization or Sophie Germain’s primes
or Brownian motion or Cantor dust e.g. poet you are a
maker poietes = maker all pure and simple not pure and
simple at all head to toe stem to stern dark root in (un)
expurgated version another Chevy going down by the levee
hi five cheery pi
SOURCES


Note: All “contains” warnings are or are not from *The Washington Post* movie listings