

Open Mic

from Hurdle

H

You hear a screech, expect a crash.

Car parts, glass flying.

A fist through a wall. An echoing yell.

A swell of ankles gathered for mourning.

A swell of ankles gathered by morning.

Work boots, hands carrying
coffee. Black, no sugar. Twenty men yell
words like boxes, ear to hand assembly line.

A swell of ankles gathered in mourning.

You hear a screech, expect a crash.
Work boots. Words like boxes, ear to hand
carrying coffee, black, no sugar. Words

like coffee, black no sugar. Twenty men
yell words like boxes that
fly ear to hand. Carrying car parts, glass.
Work boots, a swell of ankles gathered

in the morning. Coffee. You hear a screech
expect a crash. Twenty men
yelling words that echo assembly.
Car parts, glass, a fist through a wall, boots

in the morning carrying twenty men. Words
like coffee. Black, no sugar.
An echoing yell, a swell of ankles assembled
for mourning. A crash. You hear

a screech. Expect words. Yelling voices,
a swell of boots gathered
in mourning. Boxes of car parts flying
like glass ear to hand, working men and fists

crash into walls. Coffee, black—no sugar.

H

~~sitting at~~ BitterEnd Café ~~razor high~~

early / late white mocha

half heard by the herd chess players

tracing patterns on board the floor paired eyes

two

and two at every table, turning / every word (in my head)

answers

a question with a question You are very good
at
your

~~recreation~~ — job

Save the date newspapers must be recycled re

read (or red) OR come in for a drink, Red. Surprised, you're up so late!

what gives?

~~4 am~~ So much for

catching a wink of sleep the words in my mouth

are wide awake change clothes

one syllable at a time CHECKMATE players tip

the skinny barista with a grave on her heart with bank slips

kings on their sides

my throne is an air mattress
inflates

behind eyelids this is a forced ~~wake~~ funeral
save ~~the fake flowers~~

the date

July something
July summer
July...Julie I... should have told, Red...

to recycle.... The can
of empty coke,
that's a ~~diamond~~ in some cases yup, Julie smarts

the grave on her heart heaves
The herd half hears her
half hears, Red swallowing retreating words

jewels that label
~~BODY~~eyes are bowling balls
striking

the players fall away game after game
Red vanished like a thin red (or read) line
should've

He couldn't hang
It's Julie and I at five, then six, then... Julie vanishes
with the last CHECKMATE takes a cake
and chai

It's July something SUMMER early / late
open mike ~~this evening~~ open
music

shapes the dream of ~~every dream~~
OF MY LIFE this morning

A chord of notes

What is meant

is played

b(l)ack

and green flames'

buoyancy

oil in water

oil on water

flamboyant

stick
figure
people
waving
blades

of
grass

keep it cut(e)

on the
lakefront

wake
with
the sun
be(come)
morning
son(g)

bird of sea
tree of sky
leaf of c(r)ow(d)
cloud flower

pick and choose

WISELY

wisdom is (a) **WHISPER**

BE sure OF WHAT YOU KNOW

GOD
(gäd)

in the details

the dreamscape

musicology
mythology

biology

liquid

sound

soluble

soul

as steps
as roads
as pol(l)es

what goes both

RIGHT

andOR

LEFT