

REALMATTER



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REAL**MATTER**

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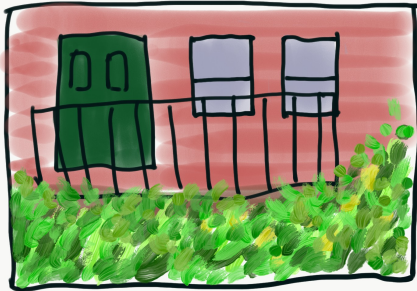
2. Fung Wah

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1. Somerville

IT WAS
STILL
SUMMER



THE LEAVES
WERE STILL
GREEN. WE
SAT ON THE
STEPS OUT FRONT



DRINKING
COFFEE,



AND SMOKING
CIGARETTES
IN THE
AFTERNOON
SUN.

THE WHITE
CAT CAME
ROUND ONLY
WHEN YOU
WERE THERE

AND
WRAPPED
ITSELF
AROUND
YOU



LIKE YOU DID WITH ME
AT NIGHT

YOU TALKED
NONSTOP
AND I
SMELLED
YOUR SKIN.



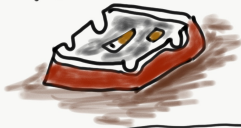
IT SMELLED LIKE
THE SUMMER
WHEN I WAS 16

YOUR PICKUP
TRUCK WAS
PARKED IN
A QUIET
SPOT
NEARBY



ONE TIME,
WHEN I SPENT
THE NIGHT
AT YOUR
PLACE

MY JUMPER STAYED
ALL NIGHT ON TOP
OF AN ASHTRAY.



IN THE
MORNING,
IT
SMELLED
SO
BAD

! THAT I
COULD
NOT
POSSIBLY
WEAR IT.



SO I WENT TO
WORK
WITH
YOURS.



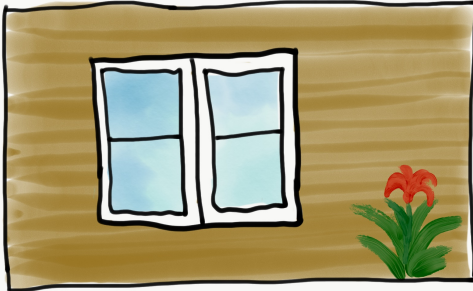
IT
LOOKED
RIDICU-
LOUSLY
BIG
ON
ME.



NOW THE TREES
ARE BARE AND
THE
AIR
IS
CRISP
AND
CHILLY



JUST THE WAY
YOU LIKE IT.



SITTING
INDOORS,
I
WAIT

FOR ANOTHER ONE
THAT PROBABLY
WILL NOT COME

HIS NAME
IS AZIZ,
"THE
BELOVED."

BUT
THE
REAL
BELOVED
IS
STILL YOU.



I KEEP THINKING OF
THE WAY
YOU SANG
ALONG TO
TOM WAITS
IN THE TRUCK



THE WAY
YOU
SAID,
SEE YOU
TOMORROW

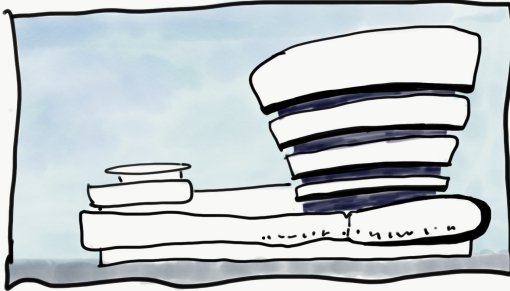
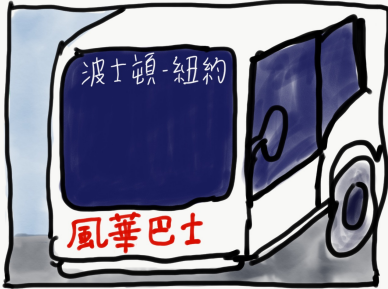
I WISH
THERE WERE
OTHER
TOMORROWS
LIKE THOSE

MORE TOMORROWS
OF LATE SUMMER,
THE FIRST LEAVES
ON THE GROUND
AS WE WENT
FOR BREAKFAST
IN SOMEVILLE.



2. Fung Wah

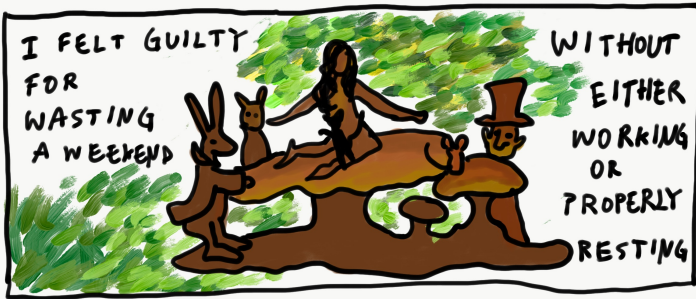
I WENT TO
NYC FOR THE
WEEKEND
TO SEE MY
FRIEND IRINA



AND TO
FORGET
ABOUT
BEFORE-
SEMESTER
ANXIETY



THE CITY WAS
BEAUTIFUL AS EVER,
BUT MY MIND WAS
ELSEWHERE,
MY FOREHEAD
WAS NOT SERENE.



THEN,
ON THE WAY BACK,
THE BUS
BROKE DOWN.



I FOUND
MYSELF
IN A
RANDOM
SERVICE
AREA.

WE WERE
STUCK
THERE
FOR TWO
HOURS.



I WAS
IN THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE
AND IT WAS
DARK OUTSIDE.

I SAT AT A
LITTLE
PLASTIC
TABLE
UNDER A
NEON
LIGHT.



AND SUDDENLY
EVERYTHING WAS
ALRIGHT.
I FELT FINE.

I STOPPED
WORRYING.



IT'S NOTHING;
IT'S JUST LIFE.
YOU SIT AT A PLASTIC
TABLE AND DRINK
TAP WATER FROM A
PAPER CUP. AND WAIT.

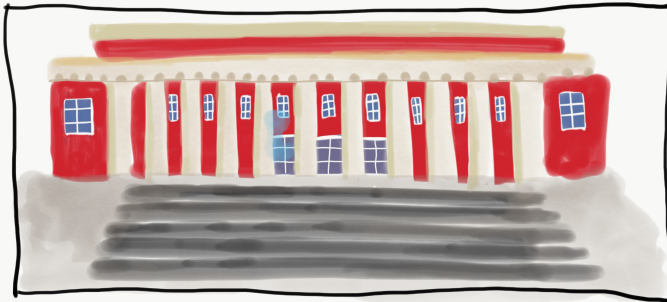
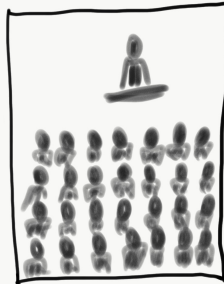
EVERYTHING
THAT
MAKES US
WAIT
IS SACRED

3. Conference




IN THE BOSTON
AREA THERE ARE
SO MANY
UNIVERSITIES

THAT YOU COULD
GO TO A DIFFERENT
PUBLIC LECTURE
EVERY DAY FOR
THE WHOLE YEAR




I INDULGED
FREQUENTLY
AND
UNASHAMEDLY

OFTEN
NEGLECTING
MY
OWN
WORK



MOST
OF
THEM
WERE
AMAZING

A FEW
OF
THEM
WERE
PRETTY
CRAP



THIS
CONFERENCE
WAS ONE
OF THE
LATTER



THERE WERE
BASICALLY
TWO TYPES
OF PAPERS:

1. THE
COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE
PAPER

THERE IS NO DOCUMENTED
EVIDENCE THAT OBSCURE
AUTHOR A EVER
READ THE WORKS
OF OBSCURE
AUTHOR B.
NEVERTHELESS...



... I AM GOING TO
DRAW A
COMPARISON
BETWEEN
THEM IN
ORDER TO
REACH...



... A SELF-EVIDENT
GENERALIZATION
THAT
CONTAINS
THE WORDS
LOVE, DEATH,
AND MODERNITY



IN THE PROCESS, I
WILL READ VERY
LONG PASSAGES
IN A
NO-ONE
ROOM



LANGUAGE
IN THE
UNDER-
STANDS
...

... IN A
THEATRICAL
TONE

ما قالوا!
ما كبتنا!



2. THE
CULTURAL
STUDIES
PAPER.

I AM GOING TO TAKE
A NINETEENTH-CENTURY
EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHER'S
THEORY AND APPLY
IT TO A CONTEMPORARY
PHENOMENON LIKE
BLOGGING, AND...



... FOCUS ON
AN ARBITRARY,
SMALL SELECTION
OF CASE
STUDIES, THAT
I WILL NOT
PLACE ...



... IN ANY SOCIAL,
POLITICAL, OR ECONOMIC
CONTEXT. INSTEAD I
WILL DISCUSS THE TOPIC
THROUGH A COMBINATION
OF INTENSIVE
NAME-DROPPING
OF THEORISTS,
WHOSE THEORIES
I WILL NOT EXPLAIN...



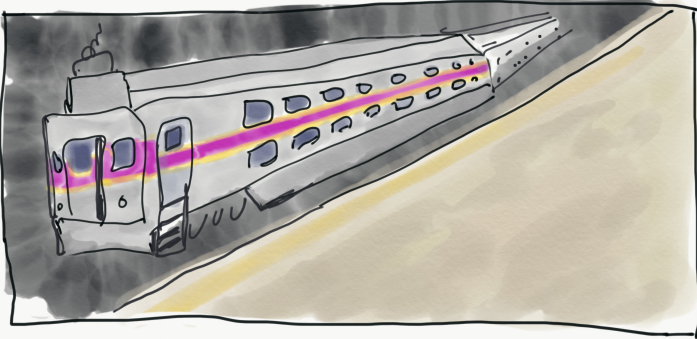
... AND A MASSIVE USE
OF GERMAN WORDS,
THAT WILL
ELICIT FRANTIC
NODDING IN
THE AUDIENCE,
EAGER TO
SHOW...



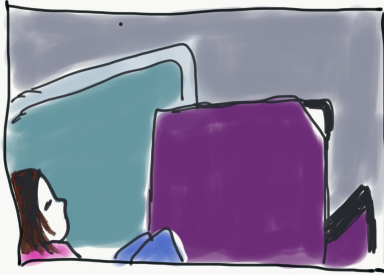
... THAT THEY SHARE
THE SAME CULTURAL
CAPITAL.



4. Salem



I WENT
TO SALEM
ON THE
WEEKEND



IT'S LESS THAN
AN HOUR BY TRAIN,
SO IT WAS JUST
A DAY TRIP.

THE
THING
SALEM
IS MOST
FAMOUS
FOR

ARE
SALEM
TRIALS

THE
WITCH
OF
1692-93.



BY THEN, IN EUROPE,
THE PRACTICE OF
CONVICTING AND EXECUTING
PEOPLE, MOSTLY WOMEN,
FOR WITCHCRAFT WAS
COMING TO AN END.



BUT,
IN THE
NEW WORLD

'''

... IT WAS
STILL A
SERIOUS
MATTER.

WITCH TRIALS WERE INITIATED BY A COMPLAINANT WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED WITH WITCHCRAFT BY THE ACCUSED.



A KEY FACTOR IN THE COURT PROCEEDINGS WAS "SPECTRAL EVIDENCE".



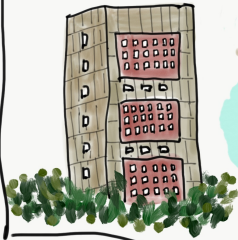
IF THE PLAINTIFF HAD SEEN AN IMAGE OF THE ACCUSED WHILE UNDER THE EFFECT OF WITCHCRAFT
"

... THAT WAS PROOF THAT THE ACCUSED WAS A WITCH.



THE LEGAL VALUE OF SPECTRAL EVIDENCE BECAME THE OBJECT OF HEATED DEBATE AT THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS OF 1692-93.

AMONG THOSE CALLING FOR CAUTION IN ITS USE WERE INCREASE MATHER AND HIS SON COTTON MATHER.



INCREASE MATHER WAS THE PRESIDENT OF HARVARD COLLEGE, AND THE PERSON AFTER WHOM TODAY'S MATHER HOUSE IS NAMED.

SPECTRAL EVIDENCE WAS DEEMED CONCLUSIVE PROOF BECAUSE THE DEVIL NEEDED A PERSON'S CONSENT TO PROJECT THEIR SPECTRAL IMAGE. IT PROVED THAT THE ACCUSED HAD MADE A PACT WITH THE DEVIL.



THE MATHERS CHALLENGED THIS ASSUMPTION:

DO NOT LAY MORE STRESS ON PURE SPECTRAL EVIDENCE THAN IT WILL BEAR!

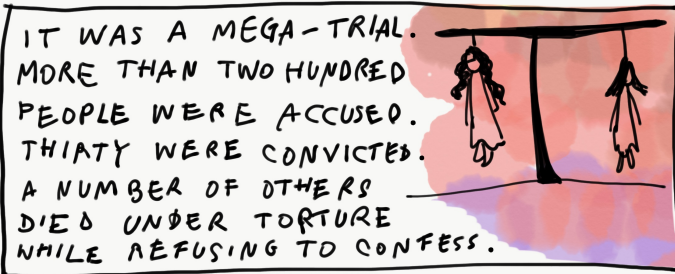


IT IS VERY CERTAIN THAT THE DEVILS HAVE SOMETIMES REPRESENTED THE SHAPES OF PERSONS NOT ONLY INNOCENT, BUT ALSO VIRTUOUS

THEY
PROPOSED
TO RELY
ON MORE
SECURE
EVIDENCE.



... OR NOT
GOING TO
CHURCH
AS OFTEN
AS OTHERS.



WHEN I
VISITED,
SALEM WAS
FULL OF
WITCH-THEMED
SOUVENIRS.

SHOPS SOLD
WITCH
T-SHIRTS...



... WITCH EARRINGS...

...
AND
WITCH
KEY-
HOLDERS.



IT FELT UTTERLY
BIZARRE. AS IF
IN HIROSHIMA SHOPS
SOLD CUTE ATOMIC
BOMB MERCHANDISE.

MAh.



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