

BODY

By Sanjeev Sethi

(1)

In your interstices my troubles
were tamed. I did not know you
were a dissenter in dental processes.

(2)

In release through the rubric of rupees
one doesn't bother about being desirable.
Rivet is to reach one's endpoint.

(3)

Munificence of memory connects
to our catchwords. Everyone
is allowed to apple-polish themselves.

CIRCA, THIS LIFETIME!

There was no bugle,
no big promise.
We never turned up
on a podium
and pledged anything.

The carnival of quotidian
rites was our troth.

Like, in gatherings,
your fixing me
with a gimlet eye
as disfavor
of my fandom of five.
Or your hand —
soft and supine
unmindful of my mood,
caressing with such curiosity,
I was forced to ponder
over the properties
of my pores.

I wish you hadn't happened.

CELLULITE

At 13 she incrassated in a place or two.
At 40 all over. In that shell she caches
what she is scared to see. Let us not
take her lightly. She is me. She is you.
She is everyone who has not been able
to digest. It is not for everyone to slip-on
the dungaree of acceptance. The lean
absorb. What they cannot they transfer.

INFLUENCES

Meet my household help
of two decades.

Shirdi and Sydney are equidistant.
On *Rohini's* map Rohtak is overseas.
Distance in her atlas is measured
by number of times I mention it.

Isn't there a wee bit
of *Rohini* in us all?

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

This year there is no card,
no gift, no suggestion
of a surprise party for two,
but a seminar at the British Council:
"Post-Independence Indian writing in English."
And breath on my ansaphone.

Bio:

The recently released, *This Summer and That Summer*, (Bloomsbury) is *Sanjeev Sethi's* third book of poems. His work also includes well-received volumes, *Nine Summers Later* and *Suddenly For Someone*. He has, at various phases of his career, written for newspapers, magazines, and journals. He has produced radio and television programs.

His poems have found a home in *The London Magazine*, *The Fortnightly Review*, *Allegro Poetry Magazine*, *Lemon Hound*, *Otoliths*, *Solstice Literary Magazine*, *Off the Coast*

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Literary Journal, Synesthesia Literary Journal, Oddball Magazine, Hamilton Stone Review, Indian Literature, The Hindu, The Statesman Festival 2015 and elsewhere. He lives in Mumbai.

EPISTEME