

Organchess

Peter Meinl-Kemper

SAMPLE

the voidery aperture

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by
the Voidery Aperture

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they put you in charge of the man now he'd been born
how much like churches in the old days
solid Lucinda there your case worker
a stirring of tendons and blood clots in the ruins
something to steer by
nipple-shaped runestones cupped in a palm
it hadn't been going too well for years
since he'd been born in fact
the fictions of his youth consigned to recycling bins
the imminent thing the euphemist in the ruins
a tearing of ligaments
and his case worker Lucinda
occasional truculence and the beadiness she aspired to
which she boasted of when she could
which was explained to you in passing
one of her rivals
either before or after the introductory briefing
need to recite inappropriate pieties
and sound as if you meant it
while they fucked you
how much like churches in the old days

*

there was a congregation sort of
gossamer shock-victim foil of their capes
pinched round their shoulders as they knelt
glucosamine chalices at the ready
a body containing true believers and less-true ones
Lucinda wobbling along beside you
on her branded company hire-bike
veering off-message
old vulcanized bucket on secondment
being a toilet behind a screen
it was the restructuring to blame
it was the budgetary cuts
the impact of those swingeing cuts
on their business model
all to do with that

*

swabs at the door
your medical history
checks for allergy to latex
money well spent on that new striker
gloves snapped on
the slurp of lubricant
the smear with

*Please use this space to help us capture any ideas you have for improving
the range of services we provide*

None crossed that out
put something arch and supercilious
*I am constitutionally incapable of blue-sky thinking
horizon-gazing etc.*
supercilious but in a good way
poised self-knowing
hint of a smirk about it wry
*yeah but the transfer window's closing
our defence it's weak as water*
from the gusset some leisurely motes of dust dislodged
what essence of self what shame to invest
best not to dwell more questionnaire
you were an arse but you had righteousness on your side
dispensed a mint for you to suck on while they probed
a plastic bowl between your legs
they took some photos

*

you were in charge of him
free agent that he was was meant to be
he wasn't achieving
eyeball in close-up expressive of terror

Lucinda the liturgy her obsession
breath like what's expelled from a five-year-old tyre
deflated in accordance with the manufacturer's
technical specifications
after a heavily laden trip round several countries
souls repentance these trainees
the body or congregation assuming a larger
share than before in the liturgy
and the liturgy more hardcore
better policed

*

leftover sandwiches for breakfast
late-night meetings overrun
cue jokes about doggy bags
cakes and pastries cheerfully mangled
in the comfort break succeeding Article 3
yeah free food's great
it's not like anyone actually pays
for stuff like sandwiches these days

Lucinda's breath Lucinda's emphases
the housekeeping fire regs mutual expectations
earthworms halved in the sun-baked yard
a thrashing of red-jelly stumps
the rags of poisoned weeds
Lucinda's peaked cap that said *Pathway Lead*
her T-shirt saying *Helping You Achieve*

a migrant worker pushing the trolley round
how may I help you, sir
with compliments of the
have an outstanding weekend