



Commodore

Jacqueline Waters

Ugly Duckling Presse (Dec 1, 2017)

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Jacqueline Waters is practiced at the velvet glove-iron fist approach to poetry, at times finessing or obscuring the poem's impact so that when it lands, the force is staggering. Her poetry has appeared in *Harper's*, *Chicago Review*, *The American Reader*, and other publications. She is the author of two other collections: *One Sleeps the Other Doesn't* and *A Minute without Danger*.

Don't Be Upset If You Don't Hear from Me

Ranchers lease land from the government

At very low rates

That do not make up for the money spent by the government

To manage the land for the ranchers

Each rancher goes to sleep with a blanket

It doesn't stop there

Ranchers get sex in places we don't know about

The sex doesn't stop there

Ranchers were so mad about 200 coyotes loose in their area

So the government said OK we'll shoot them from helicopters

When the coyotes died it was OK

Because animals die all the time they are used to it

You like this cake I'll cut you a slice

A sliver

It's just a worthless sliver

If it were me I would be more circumspect about it

I would be less going on about it

I'd tear its branches off and act like I hadn't thought about it

Decorate the tree half and shove it out there to sit

MATT SUTHERLAND (January/February 2018)

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