

mulierem ex igne
by isabella capelli

Isabella Capelli
(856) 701 2526
bellaecapelli@gmail.com

PEOPLE

rosemary

saoirse

adylia

eowyn

jujube

the eye

SETTING

a library

liminal

DIALOGISTICS

much like punctuation...

. denotes stagnant moments

, denotes active, moving moments

/ denotes an interruption

A NOTE ON POETICS

this world lives in lyrical language, but that does not disrupt
the reality of it.

the eye is physical and spiritual,

a library
overseen by an eye

eowyn
jujubee, won't you eat a biscuit?

jujubee
no thank you

eowyn
no biscuit?

jujubee
no

adylia
why not sweetheart

jujubee
i'm not hungry

eowyn
oh but you're too thin

adylia
sickly small

jujubee
i eat plenty

adylia
eat jujubee

eowyn
yes eat sweetheart

jujubee
but

eowyn
saoirse made these fresh

adylia
her mother's recipe

eowyn
delicious with honey and butter

jujubee
jam?

adylia
no jam

eowyn
no jam just honey and butter

adylia
jam is for poor people

eowyn
honey is exquisite

adylia
divine

eowyn
for us of higher status

jujubee
okay

eowyn
saoirse, is your friend coming?

saoirse
friend?

eowyn
yes, the woman you told us about

saoirse
ah, rosemary

adylia
mhm

saoirse
i believe so

eowyn
did you show her how to find the library?

saoirse
i shared, yes
,
jujubees! a biscuit?

jujubees
yea

saoirse
are they good?

jujubees
mmhmm

saoirse
i'm glad, it's my mother's recipe

*ROSEMARY rushes through the door
like a wind fluttering book pages*

rosemary
fuck, i'm sorry i'm/ late

eowyn
oh

rosemary
the fucking/ train was delayed

adylia
oh!

rosemary
so i had to fuckin' walk all the way here. second time that's
happened this month. i mean, what the fuck is the train even
for? can't run like it's supposed to? and then i couldn't find
the library

adylia
did you open your eyes?

rosemary
well fuck! i wonder why i didn't think about that

.

saoirse
i'm glad you made it.

rosemary
yeah, shit me too dude

.

what's up?

saoirse
your language is a too heavy for us right now

rosemary
oh

adylia
it disrupts the literature

rosemary
disrupts

saoirse
the literature

rosemary
right. my bad

eowyn
don't worry

saoirse
uh, ladies this is rosemary and this is eowyn, adylia, and
jajubee

greetings

eowyn
don't forget the eye!

adylia
always watching

saoirse
right. always.

rosemary
awkward laughter

seeps into them all

adylia
sit!

rosemary
oh sure

adylia
have a biscuit

rosemary
they look delicious

adylia
saoirse makes them herself

eowyn
mother's recipe

rosemary
your's?

eowyn
no her's

rosemary
oh
.
is there any gravy?

adylia
gravy?

eowyn
heavens

rosemary
like, biscuits and gravy

saoirse
i brought honey and butter

rosemary
jam?

jujubee
honey and butter

rosemary
i'll just have it plain

saoirse
plain?

rosemary
yea thanks

adylia
no honey and butter?

eowyn
jujubee has honey and butter, and she loves it don't you
jujubee?

jujubee
mmhmm

rosemary
i bet but i'm okay

eowyn
take some honey and butter

jujubee	saoirse	adylia
honey	and	butter

eowyn
here

rosemary
yeah okay that's fine

adylia
tea?

rosemary
coffee?

eowyn
tea

rosemary
sure

eowyn
here, have all of the sugar

rosemary
thank you

eowyn
you're sweet as a sugarcube

rosemary
smile

eowyn adylia
good? good

rosemary
delicious, thanks

saoirse
of course

adylia
did everyone read the book?

rosemary
there was a?

jujubee
i liked it

eowyn
i thought this one was extremely interesting

adylia
the author has such a distinct style

rosemary
i'm sorry, who?

saoirse
the eye

rosemary
who's the eye

jujubee
she founded our book club

adylia
that she did

eowyn
we only read books by the eye

rosemary
oh

eowyn
she's the only author that matters

adylia
have you read any of her books?

rosemary
the eye?

saoirse
uh huh

rosemary
uh i don't think so... does she go by another name?

adylia
another name? she has no other name

rosemary
ah

jujubee
she's all knowing

adylia
and always watching

rosemary
i haven't read anything by her, no

adylia
oh you must

eowyn
did saoirse not review the requirements for participation in our club?

saoirse
we hadn't quite gotten there yet

eowyn
it appears so

rosemary
i was just looking for something

eowyn
well, this is something

rosemary
this wasn't what i was expecting

adylia
don't be so expectant rosemary

eowyn
expectancy is a woman's fool

adylia
expectations only get crushed

rosemary
okay

eowyn
do you think you can handle that, rosemary?

rosemary
handle/ what

eowyn
never expecting?

rosemary
well

saoirse
she can do that

rosemary
i guess

eowyn
we can help you, lovebug

rosemary
that'd be nice, thanks

adylia
oh don't thank us, we're just so glad you could join us

eowyn
it's true. we haven't had a new member since jujubee stumbled
upon our little circle

like a spider, trapped in a web

eowyn

saoirse, maybe you could give us a little summary of the book we read so that rosemary can participate in our conversation today?

saoirse

that sounds adequate

eowyn

go on

adylia

be descriptive

eowyn

please

saoirse

well, we read the third installment of "she sees all"

rosemary

how many installments are there?

saoirse

eight

rosemary

oh

adylia

one, identity

eowyn

two, persuasion

jujube

three, love

adylia
four, sell

eowyn
five, abuse

jujubee
six, renounce

adylia
seven, belief

eowyn
eight, tolerance

rosemary
eight installments

identity
persuasion
love
sell
abuse
renounce
belief
tolerance
eight installments

saoirse
we are rereading book three for the third time

rosemary
so many threes

jujubee
the triad

eowyn
beginning middle and end

rosemary
what is book three again?

adylia
book three is love

eowyn
it is quite insightful

saoirse
teaches a woman to be in tune with her sexuality

eowyn
her body

adylia
her soul

eowyn
reminds us that in order to feel love, we should seek it from
one another

adylia
touch

eowyn
taste

adylia
intertwining bodies

rosemary
oh

eowyn
toss away shame

saoirse
especially from woman to woman

eowyn
we have to stick together

adylia
woman to woman

eowyn
offer one another a helping hand

adylia
using touch

eowyn
touch to taste

touch

eowyn
reminding ourselves not be shy

adylia
embrace the discomfort

eowyn
discomfort is good, it makes us vulnerable

adylia
vulnerability leads to intimacy

eowyn
we must be intimate

adylia
how can we discuss the depths of her literature without
intimacy?

eowyn
curves

adylia
we can grace one another's curves

eowyn
souls

adylia
we can caress one another's souls

eowyn
rosemary, your mind is so beautiful

adylia
intelligent

eowyn
may we touch it?

rosemary
oh

saoirse
it won't hurt

eowyn
we don't bite

adylia
it's soft

eowyn
gentle

rosemary
i suppose

*touching the mind
fingertips fondling her head
her brain
wisping along the skin
and a smattering of freckles*

rosemary
mm

eowyn
does your mind feel stimulated?

rosemary
yes

jujubee
i enjoy the field of your thoughts, so soft

adylia
think. think about love

jujubee
manifest

adylia
yes, manifest it

eowyn
be vulnerable, as the eye implores

adylia
embrace intimacy

rosemary
as the eye implores

adylia
implore

*fingers cradling her thoughts
creeping around her ears
brushing against her brows
tracing her hairline
massaging her temples*

adylia
do you feel it?

rosemary
yes

adylia
let's all feel it

*a coup
the intimacy of brains
sprinkling touch to all
tickled brains*

eowyn
how indulgent is this?

adylia
indulgent and guilt free

saoirse
the eye will be happy

eowyn
we have understood and retained the themes of the third
installment

adylia
you too, rosemary, understand the third installment

rosemary
i understand

eowyn
yes

adylia
now sip your tea

eowyn
and eat your biscuit

adylia
nourish your mind

eowyn jujubee
soul body

jujubee
rosemary, do you have a library card?

rosemary
i did once

eowyn
to here?

rosemary
no, i've never heard of here before

saoirse
to where?

rosemary
where i grew up, there was a little library

saoirse
ah

rosemary

i'm not sure how it ran after all those years place was a ghost town but i liked it

nostalgia

saoirse
sounds nice

rosemary
it was

saoirse
is it still there?

rosemary
no the library burned down, and the owner went with it

adylia
tragic

rosemary
she was young

jujubee
but she died

saoirse
maybe it was better that way

rosemary
is anyone better off in death?

jujubee
some are

adylia
would you like a library card here?

eowyn

all access to the library

saoirse
i think she would

rosemary
it wouldn't hurt, right?

eowyn
just a pinch

adylia
here. take one of these, and sign it

signature
letter by letter
looped along the line

adylia
that's it, nice and neat please

signature
letter by letter
looped along her skin

adylia
see? just a pinch?

rosemary
is it

eowyn
it engraves your skin, yes

rosemary
fuck

adylia
ah ah don't be foul

jujubee
it's just a little blood

eowyn
the eye appreciates a donation

jujubee
it dilates her pupils

adylia
drip it here

*delicately tipping her arm
dripping onto a page
coating the read in red*

rosemary
pain

eowyn
don't forget to date it

rosemary
i can't

adylia
date it

eowyn
now

rosemary
it fuckin' hurts

*they grab her
force her fingers down
forging the date*

scraping into her skin
spilling more blood

adylia
that's it

eowyn
that's all we needed

adylia
enough on the page

eowyn
saoirse, lick it up

rosemary
no

holding her still

eowyn
lick it up

tongue to skin,
the bitter taste of blood

eowyn
jujubees, take this to the eye

rosemary
ow or something

adylia
oh hush

rosemary
it hurts

adylia

oh but it stings so good, no?

saoirse
still

rosemary
stop

saoirse
still, rosemary

deadly still
thorns clawing through flesh
tongue to skin

saoirse
would you like to be a blood sister?

rosemary
a

eowyn
blood sister

adylia
we're all blood sisters

saoirse
all of us

eowyn
join us

adylia
you should join us

adylia
blood

eowyn
sister

saoirse
join us

rosemary
i don't think so

adylia
no?

eowyn
did she say no?

saoirse
are you denying us?

rosemary
it can't be clean

saoirse
we are as cleanly as the eye desires

eowyn
ladies

forearms
skin is parchment
sharp quills
women signing the parchment
warm blood trickling
dripping

saoirse
give us your arm

rosemary
holy shit

eowyn
come on now

adylia
jujubee! join us

*fresh wound
seasoned with another's blood
drips from each woman
each parchment
into the open slit in rosemary's arm*

jujubees
blood sisters

adylia
that's right

eowyn
now we're all connected

adylia
like family

saoirse
we're family, rosemary

jujubees
welcome to the family

rosemary
thank you

adylia, eowyn, jujubees, rosemary
you're welcome

jujubees
welcome to the sisterhood

rosemary
thank you

adylia, eowyn, jujubees, saoirse

you're welcome

adylia

i think we should read an excerpt or two

eowyn

do you?

adylia

i do

saoirse

that sounds good

adylia

from which?

eowyn

what do you think?

saoirse

renounce

jujubee

ooh

saoirse

would you like to read it, rosemary?

rosemary

uh

saoirse

i think so

rosemary

sure

the sacred book

passed from hand to hand
wounded hands
bloody hands
pages peeling back the veil

rosemary
renounce

adylia, eowyn, jujubee, saoirse
renounce

rosemary
renounce
declaration of abandonment
to reject
unconsume
refuse
resign
relinquishing
abandon it
abandon them
abandon yourself
fail to remember those you hold close
fail to remember the soul you breathe in
breathe out
dance with in the light of identity
then leave it to wither in the dark
you are without soul
instead
we are one soul
one being
one carcass exploding with limbs
one heart
one mind
one
you are not you
and are not where you are from
who?
who do you call mother?

sister?
friend?
lover?
no one
all you know is this
the eye
the book club

rosemary
what am i reading?

saoirse
rosemary

rosemary
i'm asking

jujubee
keep going

rosemary
here
reading books
becoming books
not just stories
fantasies
life stories
rules and regulations
you may have been someone
now
no one
you don't remember them
you don't remember you

eowyn
do you remember them?

rosemary
who?

saoirse
a lover?

rosemary
i don't love anyone

adylia
wise

rosemary
i'm lonely
an easier target

saoirse
awe, she's getting it

eowyn
do you know why you are here?

rosemary
no

adylia
saoirse chose you

saoirse
i chose you because the eye did

rosemary
how?

saoirse
she saw you
eyes to brain
eyes to soul
a skeleton and an eye

rosemary
where?
saoirse
everywhere
in you

rosemary
all-seeing

saoirse
the eye spoke to me
told me to seek you out, ask you to join us

rosemary
is this supposed to be an honor?

adylia
it is a highest honor

jujubee
the eye is picky

rosemary
does the eye have a form?

adylia
how so?

rosemary
a body
a vessel
a vehicle to see

adylia
if she does, we don't know it

eowyn
or she is in all of us
is us

rosemary
so i am the eye

saoirse
and i

eowyn
doesn't that make you feel alive?

rosemary
like a third eye
protruding from my forehead
seeing more than two

eowyn
who is your mother?

rosemary
the eye

adylia
your sister?

rosemary
the eye

saoirse
your lover

rosemary
the eye

saoirse
good girl

adylia
good girl

eowyn

good girl

jujubee

good girl

saoirse

you know, rosemary, i didn't think you would make it

rosemary

no?

saoirse

no

adylia

she felt it from the moment you walked in

saoirse

she did?

eowyn

in a way

adylia

thought you didn't have the nerve

jujubee

the gut

rosemary

i am more intestinal than you think

saoirse

foolish of me to doubt the eye

eowyn

for she knows

saoirse

do you believe?

rosemary

i believe
i believe in the eye
jubesee
welcome

rosemary
i'm welcome

saoirse
yes you are

rosemary
what now, sisters?

saoirse
what do you think sisters?

jubesee
more biscuits?

saoirse
i didn't bring any more

jubesee
more tea?

saoirse
we've sipped it all

adylia
another passage?

saoirse
ah ah, remember, we cannot indulge too much

eowyn
overindulgence is a sin

saoirse

yes, good

rosemary
perhaps we pray

saoirse
pray?

rosemary
do we not pray?

saoirse
oh we pray

jujubee
we worship

rosemary
that sounds appropriate

saoirse
the eye
it is a gift to be
and it is an even greater gift to see
from the moment you've enlightened us
we've gained vision
blurs turned to clarity
and with clarity comes understanding
and understanding, comes knowledge
knowledge is power
man-made
but power
and power is almighty
most important
higher
you are a higher power
and with the blessing of our higher power
we are gifted control
a master class in puppetry

clean brains, over-washed
we sacrifice to you our most gratitude

,

saoirse
mulierem ex igne

jujubee
mulierem ex igne

adylia
mulierem ex igne

eowyn
mulierem ex igne

rosemary
mulierem ex igne

*the walls behind the bookshelves peel open
a large eye blinks through
irises bulging
dilated pupils
a gaze as red as cherry hugs the women*

jujubee
she's here!

eowyn
unbelievable

saoirse
rosemary

rosemary
what

saoirse
what?

rosemary
what!

saoirse
is something wrong, rosemary?

rosemary
is that

saoirse
our god

rosemary
this is not my religion

saoirse
not your religion?

blink

saoirse
rosemary, who the hell do you think you are?

blink

saoirse
you don't get a choice

blink

saoirse
freedom of religion?

blink

saoirse
it chooses you. the eye chose you. and now, rosemary, there is
no going back

looking down

saoirse
you see

rosemary
no

saoirse
clarity has descended upon you

rosemary
no

saoirse
and you, and you, and you

rosemary
fuck

saoirse
can't you see? these women are happy isn't this the life you
want?

adylia
isn't it?

saoirse
even jujubee
so young
so supple
so easy manipulated

rosemary
this is evil

saoirse
evil?

adylia
we're not evil

eowyn
just dedicated
rosemary
she's a child

eowyn
and?

rosemary
this is, fuck, this is fucked
mind **FUCKERY!**

saoirse
ladies

rosemary
?

saoirse
we must

*women surround
woman lurches
pinned, against shelves
hands wrap her head
skull
fingernails digging into her forehead
tearing apart skin
digging a hole
center
digging for an eye
a third eye
creeping through
veins wrapping through broken skin
crawling forward*

rosemary
screaming

rosemary
no

rosemary
no

rosemary
fuck

rosemary
get off of me

rosemary
help

rosemary
fuck

rosemary
fuck

rosemary
fuck!

rosemary
resistance

*rosemary lifts her hands
digs her fingers into her sockets
tugs at her oculars
snapping
her eyeballs pop out
rolling into the palms of her hand*

*left behind is nothing
an empty library
no women
no eye
just rosemary*

with black voids for sight

rosemary

heavy breathing

rosemary

angry screaming

she who sees is she who suffers