

THE JEZEBEL ELEGIES



*she looked up out of her voice & saw  
the angel who says : it's time*

*does it hurt : she asks  
the angel starts to cry*

*oh babe : he says  
you can't imagine*

••

*the philosopher dishonours  
the body : his soul runs*

*away from his body & desires  
to be : alone*

*and by herself*

...

*in those days I regarded  
forgetfulness*

*as an essential part  
of survival*

....

*every day I wove on the great  
loom : but every night*

*by torchlight I unwove  
it : & so for*

*three years I deceived  
the Akhaians*

.....

*every song has a you : a you  
that the singer sings to*

*& you're it this time : baby  
you're it this time*

## NOTES

These poems are indebted to the many refragmentations and refracturings of the works and words of other people they embrace. Most but not all of such thefts have been italicized. Thanks to everyone who lent their voices, ideas, love, and forms; anything erroneous, offensive or otherwise inelegant is almost certainly mine.

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epigraph : Denis Johnson  
i : Theodor Adorno, Joseph Brodsky  
ii : Anaïs Nin  
iii : Ang Lee  
iv : Emily Dickinson  
v : David R. Bates, William Faulkner  
vi : Tori Amos  
vii : Andrew Marvell  
viii : Lilian Lee  
x : Ani DiFranco, Rainer Maria Rilke, Adrienne Rich  
xiii : Geneva Myrtle Ferguson Lowe, Joan Jiko Halifax Roshi  
xiv : Jeremy Hess  
xviii : Daniel Zelikow, Denis Johnson  
xvi : Gaston Bachelard

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epigraph : the Phaedo  
xix : Ludwig Wittgenstein, Georgia O'Keeffe, Henry Vaughn  
xx : Kael Thomas Loftus, Kurt Cobain  
xxii : Mona Brussatt  
xxiii : WB Yeats, Christina Rossetti  
xxiv : John Webster  
xxvii : Isak Dinesen  
xxviii : Sir Philip Sidney  
xxix : William Blake  
xxx : Samuel Beckett, Pindar  
xxxi : Derek Walcott

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epigraph : Ani DiFranco  
xxxiii : Wanita White Cloud  
xxxiv : Pablo Neruda  
xxxv : National Museum of Women in the Arts, National Gallery, Monique Myrnieff  
xxxvi : Anna Akhmatova, Francesca Lia Block  
xxxvii : Isak Dinesen  
xxxix : Djuna Barnes  
xl : "In the Gloaming" (traditional)  
xli : Madeleine L'Engle, Dante Alighieri  
xlili : Alice Walker, the Book of Genesis  
xlv : TS Eliot, Richard Powers, Ann Cleaveland, Isaac Saias  
xlvi : the Book of Revelations  
l : Simon Dyer

lii : Sir Thomas Wyatt  
liii : Penny Gill  
liv : Denis Johnson, Marceline Desbordes-Valmore  
lv : Euripides  
lvi : Michelle Shocked  
lvii : Jennifer Dick, Tori Amos  
lviii : Tori Amos  
lix : the First Book of Kings  
lx : an anonymous Bosnian photojournalist, Sara Lowe

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epigraph : Ted Hughes  
lxii : the Egyptian Book of the Dead  
lxiii : Francesca Lia Block, Ranier Maria Rilke, Denis Johnson  
lxviii : safety notices on the Paris Métro, Gustavo  
lxvi : M'chelle Tressell, Suzanne Vega, Natalie Merchant  
lxvii : Thurland Chattaway, unknown  
lxviii : Stephen Vincent Benèt, Cal Harlin  
lxix : Czeslaw Milosz  
lxx : Sylvia Plath, Zbigniew Herbert, Shawn Colvin  
lxxi : the Song of Solomon  
lxxii : Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, William Blake  
lxxiii : Petronius  
lxxiv : Euclid, Carl Jung  
lxxv : Emanuel Swedenborg  
lxxvi : ASR Spear  
lxxvii : the Gospel of St. Luke, "The Ballad of Cocaine Lil" (traditional), Tori Amos  
lxxx : anonymous, the First Epistle to the Corinthians, TS Eliot  
lxxxi : Gertrude Stein, JD Salinger, Jonathan Richardson  
lxxxii : Richard Powers, Rishi Bhugobaun  
lxxxiv : Issa  
lxxxvi : Jeanette Winterson  
lxxxvii : Joseph Brodsky, Djuna Barnes  
lxxxvii : Charlotte Bronte  
lxxxix : Sylvia Plath

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epigraph : Book XIX of the Odyssey  
xci : Donna Tartt  
xciii : Freddy Wolfowitz  
xciv : Bill McKibben, Francis Fukuyama, e.e. cummings  
xcvii : Ranier Maria Rilke  
xcviii : the Acts of the Apostles, the Gospel of St. Matthew, Isak Dinesen  
c : Sylvia Plath, Robert Frost, Ani DiFranco, an aeronautical engineering lecture  
ci : Czeslaw Milosz, a traditional Bedouin song, the Book of Psalms