

Bankrupting Sky Banks

Conversation Pieces



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About the Aqueduct Press Conversation Pieces Series

The feminist engaged with sf is passionately interested in challenging the way things are, passionately determined to understand how everything works. It is my constant sense of our feminist-sf present as a grand conversation that enables me to trace its existence into the past and from there see its trajectory extending into our future. A genealogy for feminist sf would not constitute a chart depicting direct lineages but would offer us an ever-shifting, fluid mosaic, the individual tiles of which we will probably only ever partially access. What could be more in the spirit of feminist sf than to conceptualize a genealogy that explicitly manifests our own communities across not only space but also time?

Aqueduct's small paperback series, Conversation Pieces, aims to both document and facilitate the "grand conversation." The Conversation Pieces series presents a wide variety of texts, including short fiction (which may not always be sf and may not necessarily even be feminist), essays, speeches, manifestoes, poetry, interviews, correspondence, and group discussions. Many of the texts are reprinted material, but some are new. The grand conversation reaches at least as far back as Mary Shelley and extends, in our speculations and visions, into the continually created future. In Jonathan Goldberg's words, "To look forward to the history that will be, one must look at and retell the history that has been told." And that is what Conversation Pieces is all about.

L. Timmel Duchamp

Jonathan Goldberg, "The History That Will Be" in Louise Fradenburg and Carla Freccero, eds., *Premodern Sexualities* (New York and London: Routledge, 1996)

Conversation Pieces
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Bankrupting Sky Banks

by
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“Impossible loves. I am very much afraid
they can become an addiction.”

~ Cesare Borgia

MASSIMO

The disquiet in your head started fires again.
Always trying to smoke me out. Raw thoughts, uneven
temperature—burning. I smelled them on you.

That's why you wore your hair red. For too long I've set
your head alight. Maybe. You always resisted interpretation.
But I was in you, remember?

A pigment that gave your love its true color.

Okay. The truth is: red showed your willingness to
bleed—but not for God.

For me, baby sister.

and you bled...out

everything

for the emotional vampire

puncturing your mind

You also bled from your cunt—the first time I tasted you. Nothing better than eating Bible fruit coated in delicious surrender. I enjoyed stripping away your resistance.

We had alchemy often found in Shakespeare books, you know?

But then you bled from your heart. When you craved the lovesick remedy that only grew in my eyes. Impossible love watered by tears of separation.

I got jealous of your bath water—so I drank it.

Fuck the blood of Christ.

Anemic wine, cheap suffering.

Only your dirt could cleanse me.

think of me as Zeno's arrow
the way you looked at me mid-flight
stuck traveling in a single moment
to your eyes
i couldn't return to where i was nor where i was not
ever

you sat by the fire
laughing
your love language
wrote half-burned invitations

A vagina just opened in heaven's darkest corner. God was there, drunk. When I threw sin coins into your little slot machine—I won salvation from him.

but your cunt is an expensive nutritionist
you only accept payment in souls
like the horny one

I left faith in that tavern, on the bottom of a wine glass.
Now a holy item blessed by ex-cardinal lips. On your knees
you prayed and sucked the cross right out of me.

Jesus never healed the way you could.

Our father AKA the erection killer.
He can't know what we've done.

All I had to give—I left in your womb.

in god's house i buried my face
in your neck
and

snorted the very dust of angels

sister

the memories of you are so strong
that they defy time

they persist

they

melt

clocks

the cardinal robes got too heavy
when damnation
became your name

You like touching yourself in front of papal soldiers, don't you?

You like being the reason their women are forgotten.

They push aside God's hand and grip their own manhood.

And you like watching them masturbate in your image.

They moan the name of their saint and you like reading scriptures written in seed.

I sit here in my church—praying to your stuffed corpse.
Or to a blood-haired whore that represents you. Shadow has
a large palm, and she's standing on it.

On that hidden portion of you, when you used to be
shy. Her face gazes heavenward, all lit up. But not by some
winged, plump-cheeked fool.

No. Your face blushed when I first kissed you. You were
looking up at me, the one true candle in your heart. I
burned in you, made your cunt glow. I felt your clit swell
beneath my fingers.

But now my heart is dead in a coffin full of memories.

sister
please tell him that
armies from heaven
won't protect anyone

Why pray to a silent cross?