

Claire Scott – Two Poems

My Life Goes On

I don't waste days sniveling & whining
wondering where you are

I see you across the street
pushing up your glasses

I see you at the station with your
leather satchel & Starbucks coffee

the scarf I made you last Christmas
has faded, now more grey than black

your voice still answers when I call your cell
sorry I can't come to the phone
but you can & you can

I see *Heart Healthy* unopened
on your desk along with
a stack of unpaid bills

I cook your favorite foods each night
chicken marsala, baked salmon
pasta primavera

pour two glasses of single malt scotch
before settling into bed &
knitting yet another scarf

plaid pajamas on the back of
the bathroom door

electric razor by the sink
blue toothbrush waiting

near orange vials of Lipitor and Atenolol
a bottle of low dose aspirin
an occasional Ambien

my life does not go on without you
you fill my days and nights
just as you always have

Foolproof

I remember the torrential rain that night, that I almost didn't go
almost didn't get a chance to try out Plan #1
that had taken over six weeks to create
on maps & spreadsheets encrypted on my computer
but I did go
at 11 pm when the neighborhood is dark
only a cheap plastic raincoat
no umbrella
only a paring knife & a knuckle bone
no mask, no wig

pulled into my planned parking space just out of sight
walked casually toward the house checking for lights
crawled through the kitchen window with its broken lock
slipped Sophie the knuckle bone
dabbed chloroform unto a cloth
crept upstairs to the bedroom
toward the right side of the bed
pressed the cloth over his nose &
counted to ten
shoved the knife into his heart
twisting sweet revenge
pocketed his gold Rolex watch
his ruby ring in the top left drawer
dumped his files on the floor
tossed his clothes around the room
walked slowly slowly to my car & drove home
after dropping the bloody raincoat, the watch
& the ring into an accommodating dumpster

not bad for a night's work

Plan #2: practiced on Paul, the two-timing shit
a slinky red dress & a cocktail laced with cyanide

Plan #3: with Seth who mainlined my bank account
the lure of sweet smelling salts in an acid bath

If you want more information, drop me a line c/o
California Institution for Women
16756 Chino Corona Road
Corona, CA 92880

I would be glad to send you more foolproof plans
for free

Claire Scott is an award winning poet who has been nominated twice for the Pushcart Prize. Her work has been accepted by the *Atlanta Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Enizagam* and *Healing Muse* among others. She is the author of *Waiting to be Called* and the co-author of *Unfolding in Light: A Sisters' Journey in Photography and Poetry*.