

CAROL ANN DUFFY

Text

*I tend the mobile now
like an injured bird*

*We text, text, text
our significant words.*

*I re-read your first,
your second, your third,*

*look for your small xx,
feeling absurd.*

*The codes we send
arrive with a broken chord.*

*I try to picture your hands,
their image is blurred.*

*Nothing my thumbs press
will ever be heard.*

SIMON ARMITAGE

'Thank You for Waiting'

*At this moment in time we'd like to invite
First Class passengers only to board the aircraft.*

*Thank you for waiting. We now extend our invitation
to Exclusive, Superior, Privilege and Excelsior members,
followed by Triple, Double and Single Platinum members,
followed by Gold and Silver Card members,
followed by Pearl and Coral Club members.
Military personnel in uniform may also board at this time.*

*Thank you for waiting. We now invite
Bronze Alliance members and passengers enrolled
in our Rare Earth Metals Points and Reward Scheme
to come forward, and thank you for waiting.*

*Thank you for waiting. Accredited Beautiful People
may now board, plus any gentleman carrying a copy
of this month's Cigar Aficionado magazine, plus subscribers
to our Red Diamond, Black Opal, or Blue Garnet promotion.
We also welcome Sapphire, Ruby, and Emerald members
at this time, followed by Amethyst, Onyx, Obsidian, Jet,
Topaz, and Quartz members. Priority Lane customers,
Fast Track customers, Chosen Elite customers,
Preferred Access customers and First Among Equals customers
may also now board.*

SIMON ARMITAGE

'Thank You for Waiting'

On production of a valid receipt travelers of elegance and style wearing designer and/or hand-tailored clothing to a minimum value of ten thousand U.S. dollars may now board; passengers in possession of items of jewelry (including wristwatches) with a retail purchase price greater than the average annual salary of a mid-career high school teacher are also welcome to board. Also welcome at this time are passengers talking loudly into cellphone headsets about recently completed share deals, property acquisitions, and aggressive takeovers, plus hedge fund managers with proven track records in the undermining of small-to-medium-sized ambitions. Passengers in classes Loam, Chalk, Marl, and Clay may also board. Customers who have purchased our Dignity or Morning Orchid packages may now collect their sanitized shell suits prior to boarding.

Thank you for waiting.

Mediocre passengers are now invited to board, followed by passengers lacking business acumen or genuine leadership potential, followed by people of little or no consequence, followed by people operating at a net fiscal loss as people.

SIMON ARMITAGE

'Thank You for Waiting'

Those holding tickets for zones Rust, Mulch, Cardboard, Puddle, and Sand might now want to begin gathering their tissues and crumbs prior to embarkation.

Passengers either partially or wholly dependent on welfare or kindness: please have your travel coupons validated at the Quarantine Desk.

*Sweat, Dust, Shoddy, Scurf, Feces, Chaff, Remnant, Ash, Pus, Sludge, Clinker, Splinter and Soot:
all you people are now free to board.*

ALLEN GINSBERG

'Cosmopolitan Greetings'

Stand up against governments, against God.

Stay irresponsible.

Say only what we know & imagine.

Absolutes are Coercion.

Change is absolute.

Ordinary mind includes eternal perceptions.

Observe what's vivid.

Notice what you notice.

Catch yourself thinking.

Vividness is self-selecting.

If we don't show anyone, we're free to write anything.

Remember the future.

Freedom costs little in the U.S.

Advise only myself.

Don't drink yourself to death.

Two molecules clanking us against each other require an observer to

become

scientific data.

The measuring instrument determines the appearance of the phenomenal
world (after Einstein).

ALLEN GINSBERG

'Cosmopolitan Greetings'

The universe is subjective..

Walt Whitman celebrated Person.

We are observer, measuring instrument, eye, subject, Person.

Universe is Person.

Inside skull is vast as outside skull.

What's in between thoughts?

Mind is outer space.

What do we say to ourselves in bed at night, making no sound?

"First thought, best thought."

Mind is shapely, Art is shapely.

Maximum information, minimum number of syllables.

Syntax condensed, sound is solid.

Intense fragments of spoken idiom, best.

Move with rhythm, roll with vowels.

Consonants around vowels make sense.

Savour vowels, appreciate consonants.

Subject is known by what she sees.

Others can measure their vision by what we see.

Candour ends paranoia.

LISEL MUELLER

'Things'

*What happened is, we grew lonely
living among the things,
so we gave the clock a face,
the chair a back,
the table four stout legs
which will never suffer fatigue.*

*We fitted our shoes with tongues
as smooth as our own
and hung tongues inside bells
so we could listen
to their emotional language,*

*and because we loved graceful profiles
the pitcher received a lip,
the bottle a long, slender neck.*

*Even what was beyond us
was recast in our image;
we gave the country a heart,
the storm an eye,
the cave a mouth
so we could pass into safety.*

BOEY KIM CHENG

'The Planners'

*They plan. They build. All spaces are gridded,
filled with permutations of possibilities.*

*The buildings are in alignment with the roads
which meet at desired points
linked by bridges all hang
in the grace of mathematics.*

*They build and will not stop.
Even the sea draws back
and the skies surrender.*

*They erase the flaws,
the blemishes of the past, knock off
useless blocks with dental dexterity.*

*All gaps are plugged
with gleaming gold.*

*The country wears perfect rows
of shining teeth.*

BOEY KIM CHENG

'The Planners'

Anaesthesia, amnesia, hypnosis.

They have the means.

They have it all so it will not hurt,

so history is new again.

The piling will not stop.

The drilling goes right through

the fossils of last century

But my heart would not bleed

poetry. Not a single drop

to stain the blueprint

of our past's tomorrow.