

## LOVE SONGS

*Loy, Mina, 1882-1966*

### I

Spawn of fantasies  
Sitting the appraisable  
Pig Cupid his rosy snout  
Rooting erotic garbage  
"Once upon a time"  
Pulls a weed white star-topped  
Among wild oats sown in mucous membrane  
I would an eye in a Bengal light  
Eternity in a sky-rocket  
Constellations in an ocean  
Whose rivers run no fresher  
Than a trickle of saliva

There are suspect places

I must live in my lantern  
Trimming subliminal flicker  
Virginal to the bellows  
Of experience  
Colored glass.

### II

The skin-sack  
In which a wanton duality  
Packed  
All the completions of my infructuous impulses  
Something the shape of a man  
To the casual vulgarity of the merely observant  
More of a clock-work mechanism  
Running down against time  
To which I am not paced  
My finger-tips are numb from fretting your hair  
A God's door-mat  
On the threshold of your mind.

### III

We might have coupled  
In the bed-ridden monopoly of a moment  
Or broken flesh with one another  
At the profane communion table  
Where wine is spilled on promiscuous lips

We might have given birth to a butterfly  
With the daily news  
Printed in blood on its wings.

### IV

Once in a mezzanino  
The starry ceiling  
Vaulted an unimaginable family  
Bird-like abortions  
With human throats  
And wisdom's eyes  
Who wore lamp-shade red dresses  
And woolen hair

One bore a baby  
In a padded *porte-enfant*  
Tied with a sarsanet ribbon  
To her goose's wings  
But for the abominable shadows  
I would have lived  
Among their fearful furniture  
To teach them to tell me their secrets  
For I had guessed mine  
That if I should find YOU  
And bring you with me  
The brood would be swept clean out.