## MIRIAM KONGSTAD

CHIMERA (org. English version)

this is the street where you live this is the street where you were born this is the street where you were given your actual form every day, every morning when you wake up surprised and restored you rise up from a damp basement and climb up your spinal cord

there is no place but this one because this place is you this is the street where you live now this is the street in which you were born

some day they will detect you and you know that is true but for now this place is yours exclusively a place which holds no doors the flickering leaves - your fingers the cobblestones - your foot soles and you're hanging out in your mouth now a moisty living room

you called in sick but it's a holiday and you wish, but cannot leave the house it's a house which holds bricks no longer it contains you like food in craws

disjointed as a maunder fragile as a fluttering straw this place is the only one for you now because this is the shape in which you were born

while the anatomy of your spirit leaps through a sweep of your street little rabbits graze the sidewalk eat the moss off your feet then bang goes the gun whiz goes the rocket and so the rabbits fall apart some people are best at casual encounters some people are not casual at all (but) one thing you knew with certainty: either you or they had to go

so you cook them evil rabbits on a pyre and as the fire burns out you set out to scout for the rim of your lungs enclosing the street you do it to reach over the terrace on your shoulder which cracks and leaks as thunder breaks through

along this urgent leakage a small pond has collected fish break the surface and so now you claw at them you hear your stomach rumbling and you believe it's a sign of hunger but deep down you know it's the cracking thunder forecasting your absence when the flood reaches your bladder

this is, this is the street where you live now this is the street in which you were born there is, there is no place but this one because this place is you close to your chest those wriggling fish you clinch them as tight as you can so oily they are they want to escape it's hopeless to bring them along and as thou who holds but owns not need no bag to carry you drink up their slime distill it as brine and brew your coffee with this magic water

as you suck out the flesh of the fish you now got a cup and in that you pour the beverage so while coffee displaces sleep and clouds gather sky you enter your stockings without porches

you wander about outside the house as the night makes you a streetwalker your breath is the draft of windows and your voice the screech of a gate but nobody is around to hear you because in this street there is only you

the flood is now reaching your door frame and so you step up the stairs you sip at the coffee near you because the night shift has only begun to refresh you turn on the shower located amongst your pubic hair it's warm and musky in there but you're numb with cold and so you don't care

there is no place but this one because this place is you yet this is the street where you live now this is the street in which you were born it is here you make a living but while you shower your wage is decreased nobody buys an absent flower soon you will clutch at straws

what is gained is only lost here who loses is merely you and the playground has no children so you tuck it behind your ears you gel your hands to pull down the traces of your formerly swept-back hair you fix it tightly and wink with the eye then you slide down the half-heated gut hill

with the tip of a hair you dodge the lake of atrocious gastric acid yet your knee now dips in it turns wrinkled and thin before it breaks off ultimately then a house falls apart in the middle of the street it vanishes, withers completely an empty lot like a fallen milk tooth what is lost is gained, remember...

this is, this is the street where you live now this is the street in which you were born there is, there is no place but this one because this place is you

you would like to go home but you are home now as there is no place but this one

because this place is you