

1985

Suite for Jean Follain

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Suite for Jean Follain · *David Young*

1.

In September there come to Ohio
clouds out of old Dutch paintings
above weeds in gold confusion
in overlooked orchards apples
drop in the wild grass
a baby in a station wagon
stares at the checked jackets
of hunters stooping to gather
groceries spilled on the sidewalk.

2.

Never came back to visit
says the old woman out loud
lugging a bucket of feed
across the empty farmyard
beyond her a shed is collapsing
terrifically slowly a cow
is chewing without expression
white stars pass
from a burst milkweed.

3.

The evening has turned the blue
of a milk of magnesia bottle
and the big American flag
is snapping against itself
in front of the courthouse
looking up at the window
where she undressed he thinks
of wrens and tent revivals
and statues from ancient Egypt.

4.

A wet stone beehive
stands in the middle of the garden
beyond the wall delivery trucks
occasionally pass
a smell of burning leaves
reminds the mailman of childhood
a fish jumps in the reservoir
in the graveyard clumps of honey mushrooms
blacken slowly in rain.