

Versary

KATE LILLEY was born in 1960 and grew up in Perth and Sydney. After completing her PhD on *Masculine Elegy* at the University of London she spent four years as a Junior Research Fellow at Oxford University. Since 1990 she has taught feminist literary history and theory at the University of Sydney and has published widely on early modern women's writing and contemporary poetry. She is the editor of *Margaret Cavendish. The Blazing World and other writings* (Penguin Classics).

Versary

KATE LILLEY



PUBLISHED BY SALT PUBLISHING
PO Box 202, Applecross, Western Australia 6153
PO Box 937, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge PDO CB1 5JX United Kingdom

All rights reserved

© Kate Lilley, 2002

The right of Kate Lilley to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with Section 77 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Salt Publishing.

First published 2002

Printed and bound in the United Kingdom by Lightning Source

Typeset in Swift 9.5 / 13

This book is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library
ISBN 1 876857 15 3 paperback

SP

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

: *Melissa*

Contents

Lady in the Dark	
Nicky's World	5
Souvenir	6
Block	7
Quality Control	8
Illocution	9
It follows	10
Where Was I	11
1972	12
Panic Stations	13
Sequel	14
Finally	15
Countrypolitan	16
Live at the Opry	17
Screen	18
Unsolved	19
Lady in the Dark	20
Formes Frustes	22
Crime of Passion	23
French Open	24
In the Sun	25
Hobohemia	26
say so	27
say when	28

Mint in Box: A Pantoum Set	
1	31
2	32
3	33
4	34
5	35
6	37
7	38
8	39
9	40
10	41
Mid-century Eclogues	43
Black Letter	55
Early/Modern	
Circulating Library	69
Spruce	72
Affect Ensemble	73
Lady-in-waiting	74
Georgic	75
As Is	76
Tender	77
Starry Messenger	78
Post	79
Anamorphosis	80
Mock-Tudor	81

Tragicomedy	82
Prosopopoeia	83
Synecdoche	84
Historic	85
Preterition	86
Elegy	87
Envoy	88
Sapphics	89
Notes	96

Acknowledgments

Atlanta Review, *Boston Review*, *Boxkite*, *Jacket*, *Literary Review*, *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Poetry Review*, *Salt*, *Southerly*, *Southern Review*, *Stand*. Fragments also survive in ‘Sapphics’ of poems published much earlier in *Cherwell*, *Final Taxi Review*, *New Poetry*, *Oxford Poetry*, *Scripsi* and *The Penguin Book of Modern Australian Poetry* eds John Tranter and Philip Mead (1991).

Calyx, ed. Michael Brennan and Peter Minter (Sydney: Craftsman House/Paperbark, 2000).

To my family and friends, love and thanks.

*The places of memorie are resembled
unto Waxe and Paper. . . .
The utterance and using of them, is
like unto reading.*

WILSON'S *Art of Rhetorique* (1560)

Lady in the Dark

Nicky's World

As the plot rocks back and forth on a pinhead
count to fifteen very slowly.
By that time you should be alone again
contemplating your evening.

You could go for a ride and take a fall,
break your back and welcome an addiction -
or ask Miguel to serve drinks by the pool,
that hunky contractor might stop by.

Finally there's a knock at the door,
a lady policeman shows her badge.
She's asking if these unusual cufflinks
belong to the father of your children.

Souvenir

If the bones of the house appeal
build from appliance to the bowl your hands
position and empty, never lonely.

Amid snowstorms the day passes from me to you,
its scenes awash with love.

If I dream the tea cup your mother gave me
tears and I try to mend it with the wrong glue
it turns out the dream is teasing.

Let's go to Hawaii on our way to the Library of Congress.
How can I thank you for the pleasure of your company.

Block

The restored fountain churns pink bubbles
like a council-sponsored lounge act.

The police station next door looks like a toilet,
avant-garde and cruisy.

I'd like to stop and say hello at the old Thai
but the food at the new place is better.

If gays and lesbians don't shop at the gay
and lesbian bookshop who will?

The Korean bathhouse is great if you don't mind
running into students naked.

Quality Control

Formidable or freaked-out
make up your mind on the honeymoon

a turban creates a sense of occasion
over the holiday weekend

shop-soiled like a melamine tabletop
a yard sale soothes breach of promise

the working bee will reconvene
for an impromptu quiz

I'll supply the transcript
of a feud on the factory floor