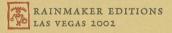


Toni Morrison

Five Poems

Silhouettes by KARA E. WALKER









The perfect ease of grain

Time enough to spill

The flavor of a woman carried through the rain.

Honey-talk tongues
Down home dreams
A rushed but shapely prayer.
Evening lips part to hush
Questions raised at dawn.

The melon yields another slice.
Fingers understand.
Ecstasy becomes us all.
Red cherries become jam.

Deep juvenile sleep A whistle trace White shorelines in green air. Welcome doors held open When goodbye is "So long."

The perfect poise of grain

Time enough to spill

The flavor of a woman remembered on a train.



It comes
Unadorned
Like a phrase
Strong enough to cast a spell;
It comes
Unbidden,
Like the turn of sun through hills
Or stars in wheels of song.
The jeweled feet of women dance the earth,
Arousing it to spring.
Shoulders broad as a road bend to share the weight of years.
Profiles breach the distance and lean
Toward an ordinary kiss.
Bliss.

It comes naked into the world like a charm.

Five Poems is published in a signed edition of 399 numbered and 26 lettered copies. The book was designed by Peter Rutledge Koch, and printed letterpress from digital imaging and photo-polymer plates at Peter Koch, Printers in Berkeley, California. The typeface is Rialto Piccolo designed by Giovanni de Faccio and Lui Karner. The text paper is Rives BFK, the cover papers are Fabriano Ingres.

Binding and housing by Jace Graf at Cloverleaf Studio in Austin, Texas.

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