

THE NAME FOR

This place is a sickness where I don't know the language no this sickness is a place where I don't know the language no that's not lithium is a country where I don't know the language my thoughts aren't my thoughts aren't God what is the word for two things together I touch my fingers together it's not exactly *together* there's this stuffed penguin I sit with him under my what's under your armpit he's he feels he & I are *connected* yes I found him in a hot train station last Christmas I mean I'm grown I know I told my friend I had a nephew to buy for I do but he's what what is he he's thirteen now why did I bring up the what is it called toy toy right he's a penguin no lithium unhooks no that's not exactly not whatever ok it unhooks my brain from my um future what's future no I'm trying to tell you the lithium unhooks unhooks my brain from my brain there's no time to time to wait time no it's I can take the dry eyes & & the thirst & the shitting my brains out & the shaking but it's just that I can't think can't talk & instead of words there's just just just just God what's the name for when something you love is dead no not grief no not loss no not funeral no not forever stop guessing for me just give me a minute I can yes time it's not not what's the name for for it it's it's it's

GOOD ROMANCE

River of Fire Thunder & Roses Dancing on the Wind Petals in the Storm Angel Rogue Shattered Rainbows The Rake and the Reformer The Diabolical Baron & O my One Perfect Rose Nearly two weeks I was in the hospital then fresh out she was my vined & perfumed latticework gateway my bodice not ripped but slowly tantalizingly untied her cover slick white like a pill & library bound a photoreal rose swooning diagonally across her belly I found her behind a scarlet curtain at Jane Addams Books made a porn joke & the clerk blushed bright the story solid-late-90s the sex medium hot as satisfying as grocery-store sheet cake what seduced me wasn't sweetness but sickness our hero the Duke handsome tall ill beyond all aid yellow-faced & yellow-eyed his gut in full reverse his chest thinning like a sentence & the accidents spillages that had Mary Jo Putney panning away to the abbey window what could you call them but betrayals betrayals of the flesh though not in flower not in rising & roving but in its withering its frailty its inevitability his gut permeable as my permeated brain & then that Rose that one perfect Rose she held his penis in her hand a soft & feeble animal that man & said body you have committed treasonous acts but hush it's OK I am here whatever you are you are also mine my God my brown-eyed Rose you are decent & you are lush & you are capable save me

LEVEL

as in a standard issue carpenter's level you know the kind with a pert bubble inside a spirit tube the bubble bouncing lazily back & forth from edge to edge evil spirit to evil spirit across a marker of good of even-
even of at last maybe OK a marker both tiny & impossible this is me
looking for the tiny impossible no too manic no too depressed too
depressed & up goes the dose I am trying to get a bubble into a circle
armed with 12 pills & a charlatan in 4½

brisk weeks I buy
3 boxes of luxury Japanese facial cotton the big bottle of Luna Night
Oil & when I start on the perfume Guerlain Samsara & Mugler Aura &
Chanel Misia & Chanel Coromandel & Chanel Egoïste & Chanel
No. 5 & even Aquolina Pink Sugar though what

one person in what
right mind would wear both & then a 1992 vintage bottle of Guerlain
Mitsouko & Guerlain Le Frenchy & Byredo Pulp & Hum Nutrition
Red Carpet Supplements built to make you beautiful from the inside
where you are bloody & tender & your kidneys are already perfect
I buy Dior Miss Dior all six kinds & Dior Dune & Dior Poison & Dior
Dolce Vita & Bella Swan's

entire set of luxury Italian honeymoon
luggage just buff & buttery enough to be designer my vagina

revving
like something engineered & exquisite & German I order the Fun
Factory Boss & the Eroscillator Top Deluxe Soft Finger Combo
Featuring Extra Power & the Tantus Cush & the Lovehoney Beaded &
the Tantus Echo Vibrating in pearl white & the Vamp Super Soft & the
Spartacus Spiral & the Godemiche Adam in marbled Gamma Ray as
radioactive & gargantuan as my appetites plus limitless lube Sliquid
Sassy & Liquid Silk & BabeLube & Nature Lovin' Honey Bear Water-
Based & überlube & Good Clean Love Almost Naked

& O for Jesus
Christ's good holy sake no more up no more green tea no more
moodboost herbal supplements no more blue light therapy & not one
damned more antidepressant I cannot make this stop I cannot get to
sleep I cannot afford milk I have got to get the bubble in the circle