

Listenings and Silences

for voice alone

I.

A Quiet Poem

Dinos Constantinides

Poetry: Pinkie Gordon Lane

Warmly ρ $\bullet = 84$

This will be a quiet poem. Black peo-ple don't write

ma-ny quiet poems be-cause what we feel is not a quiet hurt.

Agitated f

And a not-quiet hurt does not call for mut-ed tones. But I will write a

Agitated f

poem a-bout this eve-ning full of the sounds of small

Agitated f

a-ni-mals, some flut-ter-ing in thick leaves, a smear of

Slower, relaxed pp

co-lor here and there a-bout the whis-per of dark-ness a

Agitated f

gray wil-der-ness of light des-cen-ding, touch-ing

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pp *p* $\bullet = 84$ *Slow* *mf* *f* *gliss.*

breath - ing. I will write a quiet poem im - mersed in

pp *p* *ppp* *mf*

sha - dows and mauve col - ors and spots of

p *pp* *mp*

white fa - ding in - to deep tones of

Warmly $\bullet = 84$ *Slower* *p*

blue. This is a quiet eve - ning full of hushed

mf

sing - ing and light that has no ends, no break - ing

f *mf* *p* *Very slow* *mf* *gliss.*

of the planes, or bram - bles thrust - ing out.

II. Poem Extract

Very slow *mf*

Your speak - ing _____ si - lence floods the air like

pp *f* Agitated *rit.*

ri - vers. _____ You haunt me _____ and I lis - - - - ten _____

Very slow *p* *pp*

to _____ your eyes. _____

III. Listenings

$\bullet = 100$ *mp*

There _____ are run - ning feet on my _____ roof's _____ top. _____

mf *f* *gliss.*

Mice? or squir - rels? Or _____ per - haps on - ly the ghost of

wind - fall. _____ Why do they hurry so _____ plunge to the edge, then back again, an endless frantic game?

$\bullet = 100$ *mp* (spoken)

Is _____ it a chase _____ to beat the e - vening's _____ chill? _____ A

f *gliss.* Slow *p* *cresc.*

pur - suit, or a death's _____ race? _____ Or on - ly sun, an

ff *p* (bend the sound by 1/4 tone)

ur - gent need for fun to tilt the scales?

mp *f* *p*

No - thing now. On - ly a shrill call and the

(spoken) *pp* *gliss.*

si - lence of night, grum - blings of a dis - tant truck,

♩ = 100 (humming)

and a dog's

f *ff* *dim. e rit.* *Slower mp*

bark. I count the mi - nutes.

Slow mp *p*

Wait. Wait. Wait. Wait.

pp *gliss.* *ppp* *♩* = 100

Wait. Will the still - ness

p *pp* *f* *gliss.*

reach the le - - - vel of pond's wa - ter? Or

Slow ff *mf* *p*

car - ry me out to the sea?

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