



Advanced Writing Practice.

Andrew Routledge

Moonjuice

Graffiti the night
with frothy ellipses
and glittering maybes and cheshire cat grins

and biscuity butter
that whispers and mutters
and squeezes and stutters through dandelion wind.

Chalkboard the ceiling
with sprinkles; with feeling.
Your eyelashes reeling the astronaut's strings.

And rotate the puddles
with spiralling shovels:
Loosen your muscles for the blackcurrant binge.

Pepper the sugar
with dust from your cooker
and maybe uncover the ferris wheel's wings

that chews up pyjamas,
scares scarecrow-like farmers.
Choose shortbread for starters, the lamp lady sings

of swallowed up jungles
and gingerbread bubbles.
Go abseil the plughole. The pendulum swings.

sleep on the hinge
sleep sleep on the hinge

Running Order

i'm on that stage
with the heaviest curtains
where the lights drop down quickly and i forget the words
that you said i should say in my crystal-clear voice so
those on the back know who's who and what's going on
which is rich because i don't really have a clue myself
about who is who or what is going on
so i play noughts and crosses in the gaps in the rig
until someone says something regarding their swivel chair to cover the silence.

i'm at that stage
which swivels in silence
until we cross chairs and climb
about the rig uncovering gaps regarding who's who and what's really going on
where the rich drop their crystal-clear clues
to light up the noughts that lurk in the words
that you said to forget in your heaviest voice
so those at the back went quiet
so quickly i'm certain they're playing something
with someone that i don't know how to play myself.

i'm in that stage
with the chairs we'd forgotten and the lights that went heavy and swivelled
too quickly because you'd said something to someone
about me climbing up curtains and dropping down crystals
until the gaps in the words were covered with noughts
which clear certain silence
that lurks in the crossings
so you said i should say in my quietest voice
where to rig clues regarding who's playing who
so those in the back know who's next to go on.