

## Previously, on Ulysses

it's relatively good to be alive -  
stocked brexit apprehension tins,  
nights out, real weekends,  
a langue of longer daylights -  
that Jan / Feb 2020.

awaaay!

you zooooom me through a porthole of the past  
to resurrect a row emotion odyssey, calm straits  
new stormed, nail blood red carpet hydra past, a weakened metropole,  
some stars and other dandruff stuck fast to the mast.

O God to Odd to Odyssey Labyrinth Aegean You and Me.  
No mortal earthly Sweet Delight is Ever Sweet Lord Jeez  
as Love  
at First Sight.

I did not check if we were on repeat  
or whether If I fell asleep again mid-  
episode I could rewind us too,  
to stop. or pause the freeze, applying otherwise  
or undisclosed dis-ease / elastoplast.

You were my first, ok? if one of us is wrong is that enough  
for you? or will you always call my name and diss me to the wind  
until I'm passed?

Now old enough to know our onions, and once our skin is flayed  
to know our tears too well.

my joie de vivre does not seem to melt this mythic frieze  
this ice around the hull this creaking heart.

you speak (it feels to me) as if I ended things  
though when I do disturb old letters (unless I have misread the runes  
again) they say to me that it was you -  
and more than once. so lost is the plot (what series are we in?)  
now unearthing missed meetings, shut down service stations  
before the breath ran out, before the masks.

a Capitainerie at Cannes (a One Eyed Man)

' Go. Write Your Strange, Go Write Your Strangest Strange -  
and when it gets too Strange, Don't Change.'

see the wise Anaxagorou<sup>(1)</sup> standing tall  
(camera 3) Cheltenham Town Hall,  
or is it somewhere closer home?

Standing Tall Lobbing Sizzling Poetry  
at enervated rancid balconies  
lazared old colonial embassies.

Our Lions led by fleas.

Only Connect (camera 1)  
Rashford<sup>(2)</sup> in from a distance  
so Deftly Dodging tired tiaras  
spited texted tweets  
sad lives mutter  
hate mail males  
and all-else fails founding father wails.

Marcus dances out of dodge  
skips bail gets out of jail

Trump's viral virtual bastille -  
nondemocratic balaclavas -  
fake news faux fum fake palavers.  
on a white house lawn the cameras roll  
the earthworms yawn.

and at another capitol  
ghost tories (camera 5)

keep rolling 2 dismal dice  
as on repeat

repeated repeatedly  
to keep their same old number  
yet again

their tired and tenebrous same old.

Number 10.

I find no son. I do not find a father.

My quest for self a shipwreck now. I miss the scene with fate.  
Yet, none of this does truly matter. For We have Seen the Ships  
at Pale Thermopylae,  
and Patti Smith at Manchester Apollo.

I'm frozen you're muted we're done.

You reading John Donne. *my copy*. stained with *my coffee*.  
we're done. undone. dead. off with our head.

no longer booted in no tongue  
at no time on no road  
except sex life drawing  
retsina  
packet soup  
polaroids of goats  
over-complicated poets

were we on were we good were we suited.

I'm frozen you're muted we buried our cupid.

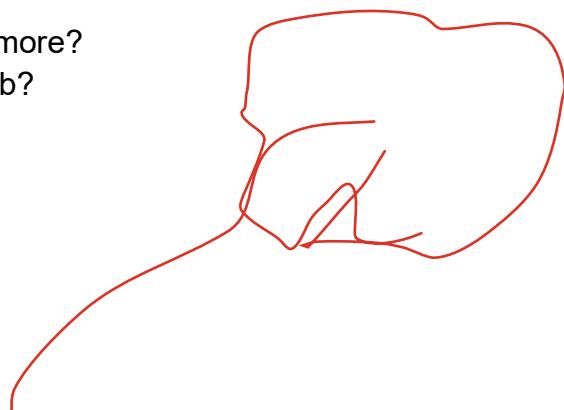
*or Was it Good?*

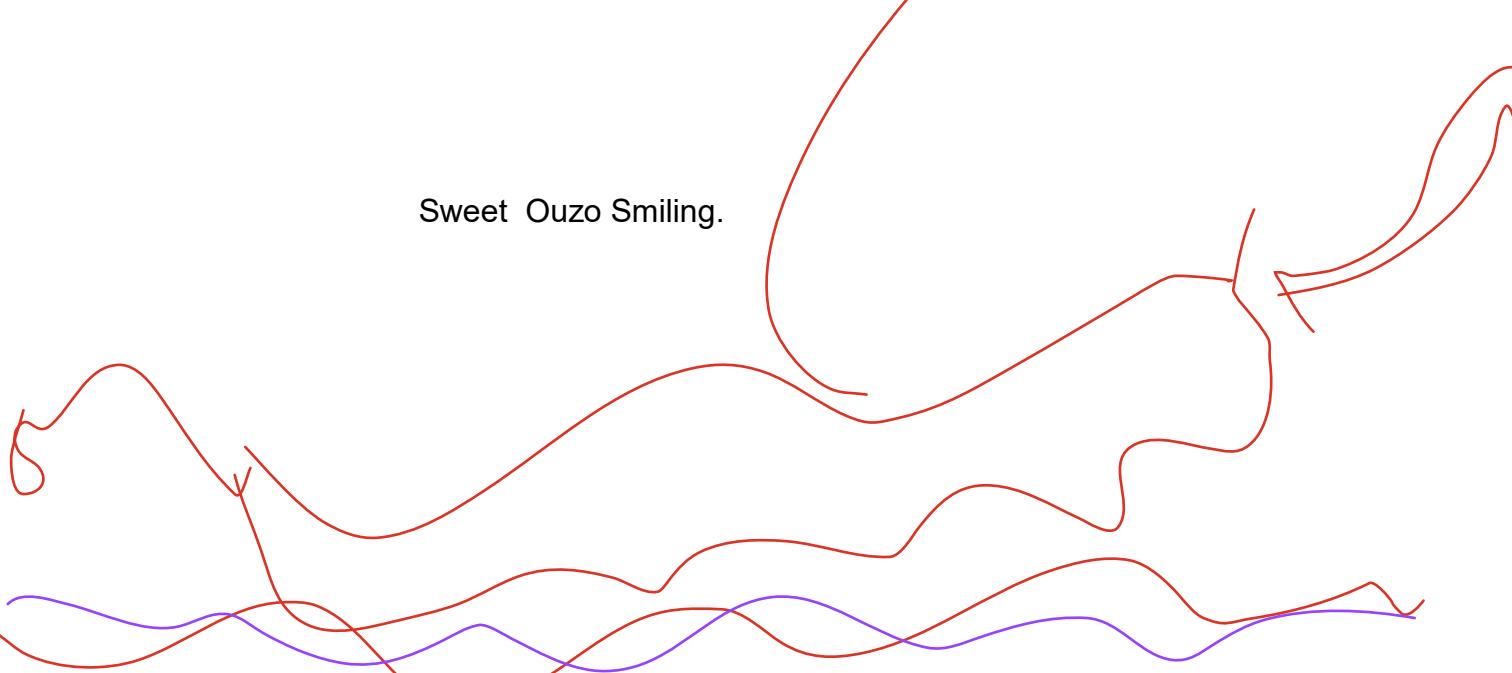
going all the way from queen victoria's red brick station  
wrought iron glass grey canopied cloud  
to Sun-Soft-Shattered Athens  
by Magic Bus 3 and a half days 3 nights duh!  
denim discomfort dry mouth  
84 hours  
forsaken rest stops.  
We Read The Magus. We Rode on Magic.

We are so Lucky to have Loved, to have been So Two Entwined, that year that  
Horses came.

Ye Gods! do Young People get to do that Epic Thing no more?  
under pale blue masks? under a lockdown thumb?

Night after Night after Night  
Laying Back on the Sand Stars Sequin Squinting





Sweet Ouzo Smiling.

and

why do I Take So Long

To Come Around?

My Azur Pond      so Mediterranean Blue.

Shimmers      Glints.

### Notes

1. Anthony Anaxagorou, contemporary British poet and educator. Author of *After the Formalities* (Pub. Penned in the Margins) and *Heritage Aesthetics* (Pub. Granta poetry).
2. Marcus Rashford MBE, professional footballer, plays for Manchester United and England. Founder of the Child Food Poverty Task Force.

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