

Side B

From *The Anti-Gardener*
Written by Scott Adkins

Baker: When I walked, to get you this glass of water, I came upon a farmhouse where inside they were performing the great opera *The Dragon*. I drank hot tea and ate ice cream. The opera went like this.

Open a curtain of robins and doves fly away to reveal an über-opera house within the farmhouse.

Baker: The dragon is inside the opera house. In front of the opera house on a table is an über-vase and an über-spoon. The opera house had four two-story windows, which are open. There is dark and mysterious music.

Dark and mysterious music begins.

Baker: There are no instruments, the music is all vocally performed, eventually flames burst from the windows of the opera house. A King emerges with a young maiden. He implores her to dance for the dragon before the world is engulfed in flames.

She refuses.

Music louder, flames more intense.

Screams. It was really hot by this point, and smoky. I feared for my life, the farmhouse seemed like it might catch fire but all the other people watching didn't seem to notice, I was the only one who seemed to notice. The house was shaking, the people in the front row were screaming in terror and ecstasy. The opera house was completely engulfed in flames. If I wasn't so tired from walking through all that quicksand I would have left, I thought, this isn't a bad way to go.

The maiden comes forth. She opens her heart to the sky, a pure single note of sound emerges from her, then she dances—a moon dance—I have seen it before but not in quite this way—she dances beautifully—I am quite aroused and fearing for my life. The flames die down, the dragon sleeps for a thousand years. The King Gao-San and Queen return singing a love song while the maiden lies dead before them . . .

I wept into this cup and have filled it with my tears. It is all I have for you now.