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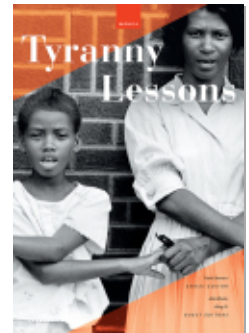
River of Amsterdam

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River of Amsterdam

November, when the city enters night
there's only a river left

Suddenly—
the oranges from my trees at home
start to shake off in the wind

I try closing the window, but it's no use
The tide changes, but it's no use
A pearl-studded sun rises

but it's no use
Doves are scattering like iron shavings
With the boys gone, the streets look abandoned

When the rain stops
the rooftops are alive with snails
—my homeland

floats slowly past me on the River of Amsterdam ...

Netherlands
1989

Translation from Chinese by Ming Di and Frank Stewart