



PROJECT MUSE®

Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

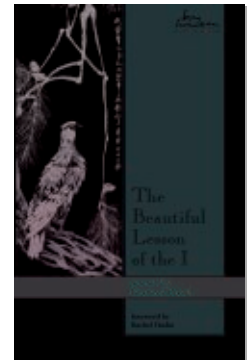
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THE SILVER SKATES

In the remnant world, across half-frozen canals,
even the draft horses were lifted upon wide wooden stools.
Swans hugged the glass collar of a sawed off ice block;
hills of bare, pendant branches enclosed the painted water like a net.

*I am skating on this unfinished lens,
balancing my weight against its plate of metal.*

Who sweeps that green
rim with the marvelous, polishing wheel,
bathing its stained edges
in the jeweler's wooden bucket
of ice-water?