



PROJECT MUSE®

Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

Published by Utah State University Press

Brent, Frances.

Beautiful Lesson of the I: poems.

Logan: Utah State University Press, 2008.

Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9873>

OLD STORY FROM THE HOUSE WITH PUPPETS

Exhumed from darkness, the ancient marionettes rotate on hangers
strung from the rooftops of the tall houses.

Weighted with sawdust, they're immense and floundering.

The dancer on tiptoe presents the rose of her sexuality.

Jack-in-the- box leers, *Have the goodness, here's the goblet!*

Keep your eye-blobs to yourself!

A vagabond and, afterward, soft gray sewer rats pursue the one-legged
soldier until the drooping

sides of his paper boat slip through the grates of a culvert and he is

followed by the horn-scaled

fish, tail streaming like an underwater kite, who swallows him.

Then the beloved is arranged

in the weighted sleep of a banquet

fish—on a platter.