Necessary Light

Fargnoli, Patricia

Published by Utah State University Press

Fargnoli, Patricia.
Necessary Light.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/9335.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9335

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=202527
The sound beyond the dining hall windows began at the edge of our consciousness, then rose until we could no longer ignore it. It drew our attention beyond the resounding voice of the poet to a strange and strident music that filled the twilight sky just beyond the thick stone walls—a mingled cacophony of sound halting the poet finally, mid-way in his poem, so that he looked up astonished. And we all looked up at the high clerestory windows—in which the crows, black silhouettes, winged past by the hundreds, thousands, waves of them, an entire river, as if a film about portents rolled by the windows, ceaselessly past, and we sat, transfixed, listening. It was as if the Irish sea clattered all its shells together, or the stone walls of Inishmore turned to metal and fell, with a rusty cranking, all at once to the stone land, the sky cackling, cawing, shrieking, pieces of it moving—as if all the ghosts of Ireland flew in an uproar, heckling, cantankerous, as if all the kings and legends of Ireland streamed there. After the window-glass showed nothing but the darkening blue-violet of the sky, and the clamor diminished until it was only a distant chorus from the nearby grove, the poet continued,
his voice as thunderous as before,
his body leaning into his words,
his hands marking time to his meters.
But we were no longer with him,
having taken flight beyond the room
into some world of faerie, daemon, elemental language.