7. THAT HAT

Published by

Anderson, Idris.
Mrs. Ramsay's Knee.
Utah State University Press, 2008.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/9854.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9854
6. FOURTH OF JULY

Leaving the Esplanade after the fireworks we follow paths along the dark glimmering river, willow and water shadows wound with human figures. Hot blankets and baskets, thermoses, folded umbrellas slow-poking the night ground. Heat now bearable. Red Line trains arrive above us at Charles Station: window squares of lighted faces, heads like party balloons loose on the ceiling, arms like hooks into meat.

On the lawn before Fiedler and the Pops, a young woman in a white dress waited for her lover. She was reading a book. When she lifted a knee, I saw she wore nothing under . . .

At the foot of the ramp, we break through metal barriers, up a stairway to the platform. A red rear light follows us across the river.

7. THAT HAT

Merely because I left you on a cold first of January and flew away South again, to my life again—a tall man in a gold party hat singing drunk in the seat beside me Auld Lang Syne, his clothes smoke-rank and sour with champagne, and as I rose in a cold white cloud, the engines hurling me into new time, new space, all I could see on the window was your face at the gate cold and small in your white fur hat, my lips breathing the soft fur of your hat, whispering how I loved you, how I'd always love you, knowing even then, merely because I left you, you would think I lied.