ALSO BY GAIL SHER:

From another point of view the woman seems to be resting, Trike Press, 1981

(As) on things which (headpiece) touches the Moslem, Square Zero Editions, 1982

Rouge to beak having me, Moving Letters Press, 1983



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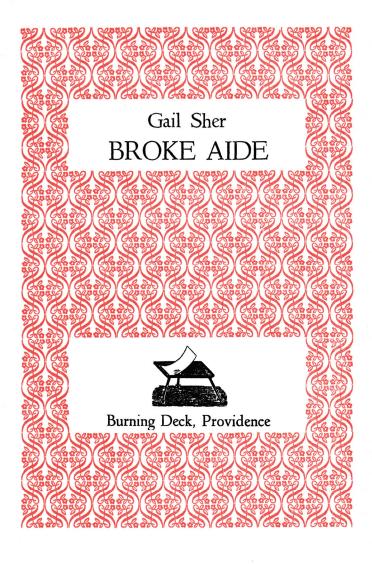
Broke aide.

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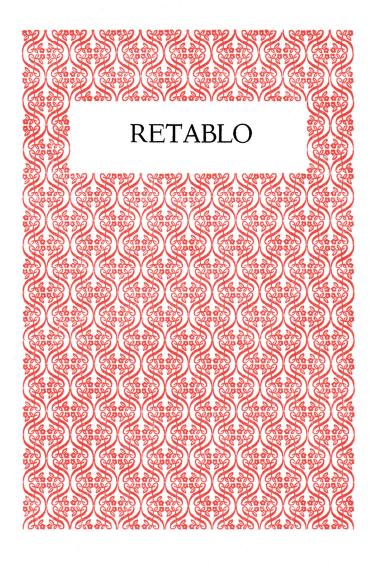
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Retablos are "paintings made on sheets of tin to be nailed up in church as thank-offerings after a miraculous recovery from accident or disaster. They are usually in three parts. At the top is the figure of the saint, the saviour or the virgin... In the middle is a graphic and often gory description of the disaster or affliction. At the base is the written inscription expressing gratitude and recounting details of the incident."

Mulvey and Wollen, p. 19.

Aware of this as a social act which the presence of another person demands.

Useful equals funny within this code. What is left in the effete aspires inward. The drawing motion of a straw against some bottom liquid. Its keel is obstreperous.

Walking is uncomfortable as the air turns cold. Talking about plants his tone is buoyant as if the relation were a distant one. Another time they climb a hill the foliage angling stubbornly.

What was fake held apart loosely. The room is without lights and without background for this encounter.

She opened the gate and carefully closed it so that several minutes passed.

It was just a memory, the desolation a past occurrence involving her. Thus she watched carefully noticing the concrete and the marbled patterns that the sun made on it.

12 BROKE AIDE

A radio from another room having something circumscribed allows the same desolate space. A voice begins and lessens in what circulates through this.

Lacks identity like boiling water lacks identity.

*

She sets them on a seat and begins to undress. Stacking her clothes in impeccable stacks which is nonsense she thinks aligning her instincts against this.

I relax and feel time as somehow enlarged particles.

A purchase takes place sonically. It is wet, happening inside.

Each thing is worn and torn, spins from thing to thing, not in reference to something else or modified by something else, but distinct and impartial.

(Whose release is porous otherwise).

Tom's shirt fades and his jeans fit snug around his slightly enlarged thighs. Small tufts of hair grow along his lower spine. His legs move unselfconsciously in the outturned manner of a boy.

No one belongs to the portion opposite where I sleep (which will not alter afterwards). We descend the stairs and place our trays on the metal bars.

The cat stills. I walk quickly with no particular plan.

The nails on the animal exist outside himself. Fingering air (refreshing territorially). Tom feels the air as he sits at his desk.

His leg kicks back and forth.

I rock back and forth. I use my neck and the muscles in my neck to tilt them slightly.

Holding her arm close to her chest she touches her face lightly. A taxi driver laughs.

My wipers fail to fuse cleanly with the glass and dust is smeared opaquely. A shallow arc which intensifies, then gradually clears off.

Segments of speed modify what otherwise is indifference (since hurrying implies feeling).

Hard-gloss actions replace any tendency to reciprocate.

As if this is a makeshift person. Some person grown without willingness or identity. Thus very new.

(Lack of hair or other touching debility.)

*

The animal is wild with a frilly walk. Its legs go in passages.

Tom walks quickly (so that there is not something apart from this).

A woman's body is young (clearly a still pain).

20 BROKE AIDE

Hips express a clear perception. To be bound is his ability wherefore the interior is the same.

He will urinate and feel the precision of this missing from his life. Tom stays motionless while a woman showers for a long time. The event of the water drills through his shallow life.

Tom finds his clothes and puts them on quickly. Al grows flowers.

We walk behind things, boxes and trucks, hurdled and exotic beaten here. Al touches her sweater. The little hairs coagulate.

A woman labors pleasantly (farms on a summer evening). Falling while alone, no one passes to help.

A woman moves instinctively through small familiar rooms. Someone will touch her (dressed and perfumed) touches (an old person) so that she hurries around. A vivid woman.

22 Broke aide

Al sees a flower (a stray piece of paper blown in the grass). She hurries to her car.

Al's neighbor is old.

I raise tulips fervently (in back) an appendage for the old woman.

Tom might see a restaurant while he is alone (putting himself through the heavy door) into some old motion again.

(His body dries while others leave the city.)

Small portions of cheap food reading at the same time. At a restaurant he is small, a single cheap man.

A time of threat sucking toward a center. Things spread out to contain nothing.

I make coffee which Tom drinks. Seated on the floor he will browse (empty seeming). A waitress might notice him seated at a bar. So that a medium is reached, a center whereby nothing is detracted from this. Tom puts his hand in his back hip pocket (cognizant of this).

Many people are on the floor sleeping and talking whom I now find an impediment. I sleep and discover them milling around.

Gaze (convulsively) spreading the food so that they touch sometimes. She lifts her eyes to see them touching.

Cramps suddenly lifted attention. A mind aroused (as in a chain). Movements take place by those.

We swim at night which is photographed. Aspects of knees where I would be in white.

Who tries savvy (mauling amounts) digging my nails into the center.

SS II.

Tom enters a room (is a fraud room).

Braces (fraudulently) a scrap of thought. (A merge of ears seated with the proud man.)

(Steadies) the table as he talks to Al. A breath is taken gladly.

(Islets) smart so as a whole (fresh) body.

Which has a raucous flavor. Barbaric colors fan a growth. (Lame) hairstyles amounts to her.

(Dummy person seated on the bed edge.)

A priest appears (cocky). I sit quietly though I see it at the same time. (Time plummets basally into the pillow.)

Will synchronize my body. An old man dies (slants) from his ashes (humorously).

(Cites) from (my) figure central slack (memory).

Hides her (fathers) (provosts) her. Familial conventions burrow from ourselves. A bearing from a pet (having planned oneself) in the element of mother laps.

Five listen up to my darling words. Inverted conjures what is heroic phenomena. Caveats glare straight up in her seat (whose pegs turn colors).

30 BROKE AIDE

Rubbings of the girl (who kneels steadily).

Navigates as this job whets.

Sees Al as an object. Dashing to him. Long-shot cows (test-feed or remember to feed) dabbles in a lake (snorting around).

Precedents are flat. A woman (vacillates) having a vertical nature otherwise.

Al sees her own faults.

Al greets Tom. Bodies pile before her sight.

Which is (her) longing. Al rides along fuselage of (old) events (balloons) hang on.

*

Depicts a costume is (minute) umbilical ribbons.

Sable strokes (a tiny giving) above the head.

(Puffs) across the earth. A house gives way to (coffin) birds.

(Blue) walls a false birth.

Is childish fun to clean the man. A fat man paints. A (tender) man (filthy) and plentiful.

Switching to a taunt (a stool) outside the class (lovebirds).

Is a smart act. (The tawdry leg is booted now.)

Fecund attention (gushing) nourishment.

Is something ridden (hopeless). I suck my fingers looking (abashed) and (vain) among the statues.

To soap the moon (sugar games) to (flirt) with the clay man.

My bed has skeletons (unison) owls (gala) auction. Frenzy-eyed (twigs) what I draw from birth.

Bricks would have a lace chest. What my spine does laying like a (cubicle).

Spangled pain cinches where it hurts. A sister goes out which is (my) being (my bed) stand. Easels straddle its broken form.

One joke cab a (nicknamed) being has character in the picture.

As if I have my own trajectory. Transmutes a limit of quiet.

Votive movements (dormant) is a false line of vision. Wetting and afraid (a source of quarrel) over the years.

One (coins) hope. I live out her gismo.

*

Is (her) way. She calls him down in a boyish voice.

Perched (casually) to hop down.

Is without dependence which is probationary (thus pushed off).

Like a burning thing. A man's skin (likewise) molded sloppily.

Truculent (slimy) embossed from (my) origin. A mind knob fusing (since she was fetching).

Frying colors before her. A body like (a moth) can swim entire hedges.

A Chinese child stretches her eyes. Swoops finding (this) shard.

RETABLO 39

Eyes mulch words. A border begins from within constriction.

Hustles words from many nimble word (mannequins).

Slogans hide perimeters.

Which defaces me to the younger girl.

40 BROKE AIDE

A child lay back thus (enshrined) satisfactorily. Veins of rotundity laughs.

Death from feet is cardboard crowns. Visceral with the (mantis) person.

A clown would main me. (A woman smokes outside). Bullies its way up the bowl.

To spy from the ring a certain readability. Is (one) way to mimic this.

Al presides over the corpse.

To so enfeeble my dolls. (Al washes them sweetly).

Of voluptuous color (signified eyes) which stratify a distant person. Hairs beneath me float (cropped) behind the man (seated).

Gnarled embryo and is a (cupped) man. I am seated in my dress.

Slices of me (gullies). A prickly man (lives) in me (stabbing) departure.

Is her own particular withering. I lay sprawled in the eaglet's poise.

Kicking in its modest dress. Men are fake Al feels.

Toes are plumage. Ankles stalking water has an "I do" sense. (Whose perceptive is without hindsight.)

Tom's face (pocked) climbs toward that (shed) guide. Questions remake masks as though a softness is behind them.

Familial is thus a category (plumbed) to lie unforgettably. A checkered coat slings over his arm. A woman floats (before which) a pet is (captured).

S III.

I water quietly. (Reins) our lost self.

Pulls us two which (coo) black. She is (a) double.

(Is) a monogamous past (an alert) connection.

The child sucks (internally) wearing white for a few bites.

Snickers at the story. A child hears what he remembers (laughing) casually.

Is taken something sagacious (which is) karma.

A float of person (sneaking) food. A sandbox could be (messy) (fury).

(Is) bitten carefully (scrubbing) a (path) estuary.

Violates one necessity therefore. A woman (dreams) retelling the dream.

Another woman is fat (aquatic amongst the stones).

(Cleats) (on the run) eating.

Family (mines) pawn (the milk she drinks from girlhood on).

Like a brimming thing. Al listens to Tom.

Tom appears alert.

Tilting his body around the machine Tom's hair mats. His (cheeks) seem soft.

Tom smokes or today will not (idly).

Distends from (my) teepee (cool) air (broth).

To slit him off I paint (engines).

Small electric cuts. (Pronto) to spend and rid herself.

Freezes my touch which I remember in the car. Tom is red (fucks) red (beams) which I recall yielding gladly.

*

Opening itself casually. Al (stares) at the stomach of the man.

He strokes his watch (arcane stubbles) onto one piece.

Whose guts sprout veins. Leaves sprout thick (rubbery) visions.

(Meatless) (bent) arms thinking of the marriage.

Tom exists for minutes. (Cows) from the dead as we ease the bridge.

Tom parades beaches (gropes) so that she is (cheese) too.

A large man arches tenderly. Glitters on the edges (sucking) the boy.

Which also has (pork) knowing mountains by the inside.

Fleet precautions temper form. Its lack belongs (areas) tumbling mentally (represents) flowers.

A human drops (flags) (colors) that are neutrally made.

Tom is kind suddenly (evolves) what (breast) is here.

Tom would call suddenly. (Immersion) cuts out slabs of him waiting quietly.

Enchants (becomes) macrocosms. (Presents) a rush (across) the street.

Tom drinks. Al (values) food. Both auctions (shimmy).

To order something quickly. Al is in a hurry (throws down change). Later it's a (real) quality.

(Numb) air inserted by choice.

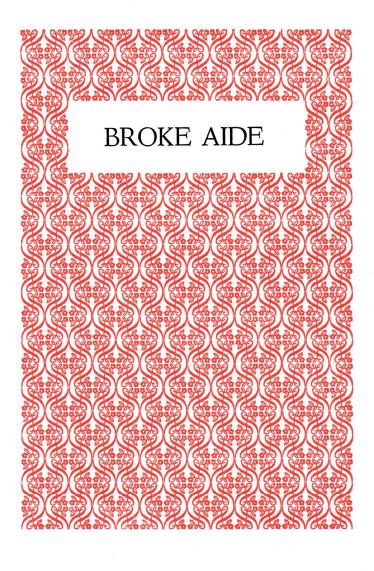
52 Broke aide

Time replaces energy because he is now hollow. Gasps is such (apparently) freedom.

A tomb within his throat. Word (earths) left with little relaxation.

A girth (of course) without sex. Years flow by.

Tom repeats laughing. Al remembers masks (forgets) her (pudgy) body size.



S

Militant pussy beck and. Is a way of avoiding surprise. A whole mother fucker (ancient pellets) get. Some rook huh. Some tootsie rook wallowing against a hidden roof. If I let go I might fall in (said) inexplicably dabbling in this (juice) fort.

Telling me (sky). Come on over (cutsie). A little dimpled sheet which would have him love him. I say what love (but) he repeats my name blankly.

A pedigree of shame snuggling inside. Backstage (cows) sits gracefully. I call significantly to the runner-up. Tom greets me after an absence. He raises my chin asking how I am today.

Motion desists (apt) or alone. (Tom) comes afterwards.

Tom personally mocks me.

A devil crutch as we (clutch) ourselves. Oh the poultry (coughs) out back is a (symbol) (tank) for my feeble anger.

BROKE AIDE 57

Al can feel it build. A discrepancy (flocked) dear. The nurse brings me tea saying we'll do this together.

Vicious lays me laying to its high leg. A personal leg lounging near thick windows.

Whose forceps cuddle the (late) hand. Something is asked. (Al says this).

A shaft jolt (see). Argot (bones) my lily being.

We two are holes. (It is so bare).

Gimmie my crucifix.

Is the bone of heart pumping. It pumps and hacks as Al pulls back. Al reasons to herself. Blinds are drawn and Al (thinks).

A man lowers his voice speaking to Al quietly.

Long ago I danced which I believe. I am asleep (the times of which deplete myself).

60 BROKE AIDE

Creates a multiplication. (This is factual.) Tom beams over my shoulder.

Tom's intimate sight demands a (gameless) Al. Modes of Al squeeze (Al) out to drain the scent of honeyed—words. Dummies (facts) while I (breathe) a plain thing.

I am reminded to do a thing (a correct thing) to bring me death.

Into exclusive heat now (cut) heat as if the cubes were (frozen) me. Her breasts are high. Rags encircle their strength.

Slogans leave me nothing.

So much hush. So withered and the fullest (she) puffs me.

So that down I go. (Exculpate my two-timing.) The length of Tom shields a steep shelf.

This is a parable. Having it build over a period of time. A youngster's anatomy (directly attracts) her (now in the mood).

Cuts me to its own plod hum. Some mine. Some fake guile like my one or two protrusions.

Which she pledges to him. The geyser fonts (she).

I cannot taste an entire education.

(As to me seeing) which is fetal. The pose cools.

The lamb parts about myself. The sky parts which I see clearly. Fractures grip (hands) alongside the rebellion (so that) globes hold hands. I carve the tree front.

A manner is a plea. Al pleas (scrapple) like an octopus pleas night (in the paddies). Irrigates (night) to swim a tiny channel.

A lady is twelve around the (bus) forest. Glass grows tall. A ringing sound achieves our peace.

Is an arcade. (Deepens the contraption.)

Al primps (is a jiffy) primp a (box) zone to toss us forward.

A man smiles (leans) toward Al (the despot).

Al's coat is heavy (fondled) in the blazing heat.

Grabs Al's hand catching Al off guard. A hand beneath her slips (about) bottles.

Al grins. (Ransacked) (is) perfect union deary. A bird is glass and (handles) pain.

Charm is hotter cheat (here he holds her back). Tom sprints warmly sage (warmly) in the hanging thing.

A buffalo (cloth) hands. Age (repeats) the animal.

Comfort eats pain binging on the bigger edge. Hops from it like the sweet girl she is.

Al inches off the chair.

Ripped across the hair or slipping his towel between my paths. I am aroused and look about intuitively.

I use my might to push this thing. Hobble a (floated) pain. (Razzmatazz) beholding how the minister will (also) watch.

Tom lies on his belly. Squirrels are near a river and Tom lies on leaves which are (slow) leaves.

Al lies back (listens) attentively finalized already (within two stones). Leaves climax as we speak.

Al gives in. A pig grows moody (this thought is in her mind).

Words grace my long white thing. (My face) is in the sun. The gimmick of my (cross) too (like his friend says).

Tom leans over my lingering arm. (Inscribes) (strands) of me.

Stoic charge (yes). Persons come with crooked heads or (lingering) bodies. Bosoms rent this paisley (touch) elbows (intestines) barrage (said to attack).

What I am common. Corrects the slice of (me).

The hiatus. He slips his arm around me gently. (Swoop) I am pliable (plying) fur birds. The older joke is open now the rook sets.

Like I smear cream or (jelly) on the mole. Its mark (pocks) frosting (marks) pricked in little toothpick hearts.

Hobnobs (those of us). Boys shriek from lower in the riverbed.

Al lies back. Golden nails draw them dogs over the carpet Al's (ennui) is. Geese come toward (Al snoozes peacefully).

A man prefers (a man). Al licks him inside out pretending she is human too. Bike men fly me (ad hoc).

Touching the rind. A jaw forsakes her soft center.

Corks the bearable part. I am pants (sharp) and too afraid of my own home.

*

Tom sits quietly. I park near his house. He chooses a place (near his house) between my car and his house.

I make myself comfortable. Used with life a door leads off.

Tom mows grass large (blades) of silky (tinder) companionship.

He sits across the table from me. This busy man (mows) the dishes gradually achieving (her) sense of friendliness.

Al reads fast. (Iffy) the projection of a man around thirty-five. Not Tom.

Seated in a v suspends her arm which is a (heavy) snow-puffed jacket.

Knickers is huffy in its jasmine scent.

Her earring (stars) out of its body. (Mine is in a cast.) Al remembers her brother Tom's (punctually) in a former life.

Is some cold station.

Buckled off me. A time for these after we play a (deep) robbery.

Called upon honey. Sheer back zones garrulous or fake as she crouches near the bathroom chute. Tinsel zones contract (cranes) upward. Oh I am so curious to say hello openly.

Like a handshake my (deceiving) posture. Gawky (dates) suggest our poise. Keynote minds (peak) over cupboards (play me out) one step further.

Absolves Al like the boy who uses a quarter. Vascular (tits) if withheld again and again.

She is (my) ghost sent out by (me) to leisure Tom.

(If only I could part the feathers lining my pillow back home.)

76 BROKE AIDE

Tom's hygiene is busier. Fur comes out (patois). (The two sing together.)

Humps the pony. One earring falls.

Al is silent. A woman is busy and signals she is ready for Tom. Roams out (pistol) cattle while Al's body is flat on top.

Her arms are canes. (The bed has bars.) Opens Al softly (cuing) (amazed) that she is in a car.

BROKE AIDE 77

A clod hungers effervescent Tom's (alexandrine) (Tom's) place. Hustling (Odysseus) meals. Penelope will sew forever dripping placebo down on (her) canvas.

Whose posture is erect. Al studies the painting. Filigree whips triumvirate (place) each to be what my eye shapes. I slap (eyes) noticing a humble man studying (sugar).

(A head draped over the marrow car.) There is no give (no revelation) beyond what Al divines herself.

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