Evelyn Reilly

BROKEN WATER

The site of the human soul someone says
A so-called “weak” bond
The hydrologic cycle and its proponents the lakes
Hydrocarbon of course the world
Children play in the contaminated river
Pluck a doll from the sediments
The cataract is named for an Indian Maiden
Weeping of course
The word cataract
The word maiden
Water breaks
The doll seemingly menstruates
Between yes and no answers the witness stutters
Hydrocarbons make things better
The doll dangles from the child’s wrist
Nature is a scene by Casper David Friedrich
It points to a place beyond peaks and pinnacles
And seems to redeem the general pillage
But children circle the garbage piles
And subject to cycles the world is volatile
The cycle of violence is a manner of speaking
Speaking is part of the energy circulating
The cycle of violence is a classical painting
Called *Rape of the Sabines*
Aesthetics are part of it
Bacteria are part of the community of individuals
They digest the carpet of effluents
But the pond is emptied by speculating builders
They make another one
Add swans to it
Now rage is a Romantic picture
Named *Weeping Indian Maiden*
The weak bond is a source of tension
Between settlers and natives
Between natives and immigrants
The word *settler*
The word *native*
The word *immigrant*
The word tension is a euphemism
The doll is a tool of self-invention
In a game called reality television
The children pretend she has skills in business and fashion
You’re fired! she says to the filthy children
You’re filthy! they say to the doll leaking effluents

Vegetation climbs up over the precipice

As planes touch down on the landing strip

Friction is an exchange of energy and tarmac

Gender is a doll discovered by children

Logic is a certain kind of sentence

It comes to the aid of the jurors

Their so-called weak bond

They hand the sentence to the subject

They subject the subject to time

The subject is treated like an object

The sentence is said to be “life”

And no one has objected

But now the doll is examining the evidence

The grammar gets very bottom line

Still the price of menstruating dolls is doing fine

It is the right place and the right time

Although the weak bond continues to create surface tension-

Bugs walk on it

Lay some eggs

The menstruating doll widens her stance

She contemplates the falling of eggs

When she was younger her legs couldn’t be separated
She had to move in a straight line
Then changed
Bugs walk across the earth’s surface
Carbon is locked in it
Carbon is waiting to be released from its locked condition
The waiting has been carboniferous
The earth is a ball of resources
The doll is a hydrocarbon with a bikini wax
Hydrocarbons were once crinoids and club mosses
The children pluck another doll from the river’s garbage
He skates on the surface tension
Bugs skate with him
The air sings of effluents
This doll’s knees once couldn’t bend
Then changed
Now he can be made to kneel before the mountain of garbage
Bugs decompose only part of it
The effluent is carbon and the garbage is home
It took eons for the evolution of the amnion
Harmony is a dream of a world without tension
Tension is a state of competing interests
The peaceable kingdom is a scene by Casper David Friedrich
Bugs walk over it
The peaceable kingdom is contaminated by interests
The word interests is a euphemism
Useful in the games of diplomats
The diplomats gather at the cataract of The Weeping Maiden
Bugs bite their arms and faces
Toads leap after the bugs on deformed legs
Damaged by rain they still sing in it
The dolls are singing with them

*Bufo bufo* is the way it goes

*Bufo bufo bufo bufo*
Is the song of the pre-amniotic egg
The amnion means water isn’t needed
With time it gives rise to the placenta
The placenta produces children screaming
Along the river where the diplomats are meeting
Trying to forge the weakest bonds
Some are weeping and menstruating
Hydrocarbon of course the world
Weeping and menstruating
Weeping and menstruating
Water breaks at the cataract
It is re-named The Weeping Diplomats
All the water is breaking
No one can hold onto it

The dolls take their toads with them and slip away