

**Gently Down the Stream**

(1980)

by Su Friedrich

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In the following text, the spaces between words or phrases approximate the rhythm with which the text appears on the screen.

Lines indicate breaks between the dreams.

If you intend to reproduce this text in part or in full, please maintain the spacing and punctuation as shown.

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Wander through large quiet rooms  
An old friend says What  
are you doing here?

I say The weavers  
worked as slaves to make these rugs  
Think

She shouts Why  
do you come here  
and SPOIL everything?

This is pure civilization!

---

Walk into church  
My mother trembles  
trances  
reciting a prayer about orgasm  
I start to weep

---

In the water near a raft  
I see a woman  
swimming and diving  
in a wet suit

see her pubic hair

---

A woman sits on a stage  
hunched over in the corner  
She calls up a friend from  
the audience  
asking her Come and make love to me

She does  
I can't watch

She mutters I CAN'T  
can't hold you  
The last time was too  
tense So many  
memories

---

Woman on the bed shivers  
I wake her  
She is angry  
Smears spermicidal jelly  
on my lips

NO!

---

Walk into church  
A bloody furry arm is torn  
from the body of an  
animal

Did it rip its own arm off?

---

I make a second  
vagina  
beside my first one

I look in surprise

Which  
is the original?

---

Building a model house for  
some man  
Do it  
without getting paid  
Do it  
wrong

---

I draw a man  
take his skin  
inflate it  
get excited  
mount it

It's like being in love with  
a straight woman

---

I lie in a gutter  
giving birth to myself  
two fetuses dark green and  
knotted up  
Try to breathe so they don't  
suffocate  
I can pull one out  
but it starts to crumble up

---

Five women sing in acapella  
funny harmony  
they spell the word truth  
in German  
I spell B L I N D N E S S  
A man says  
Their Song Is A Very Clever Pun  
I say I can't agree  
I don't know German

---

A leopard  
A LEOPARD EATS TWO BLUE  
two blue hummingbirds  
humming  
I feel the feathers  
MY TONGUE  
fl utter on my

BONES mutter    HEARTS utter    FEATHERS  
humming            on my            tongue

(End)