



TREY BURNS

WHY I PICK BERRIES

1.

A biological process,
of molecular signaling pathways used
by interacting populations of nerve cells,
coming and going, the churning.

Zoom, all through the pipes.
Zoom, capillaries in all cardinal directions.
Zoom,
The Curator in a self driving car.

The rapidity, the nano second
capital; blood and lymph.
The belly and the members,
sprawl feeding a vacant spire.

Whether mycelium interchanges
or the PVC toadstools in vacant lots,
domestic narratives held aspic
in a history of forgetting.

A recent discovery adds hope
to an economically depressed enclave
in the south part of a central city.
Is it the last Southern city? The end of the East?

The Curator says it's all mostly Midwest.

After the blackout riots, but before the market crash.
In a fog of worry,
a student researcher discovered a new species of berry, a prosaic weed
that grew only around electrical substations.

2.

A:

Primary power lines

B: Secondary power lines

Side

Primary power lines 2. Ground wire 3. Overhead lines

Transformer

Disconnect switch 6. Circuit breaker

Current transformer

Lightning arrester

Main transformer

Control building, Security fence

The weeds grow in proximity to marsh puddles -
these attract certain aphids
whose presence activates a biological response
in the berry plant, a deterrent.

They go from red to deep purple.

It is then that they contain their rejuvenating qualities,
penetrating the top layer of our skin
pressing chemicals to our cells to let them know how to function.

When collagen breaks down in the skin wrinkles form.

The berry formula applied topically
(back, abdomen, arm, or thigh)
can send the signal.

Triggering mitochondria in the older,
effectively rejuvenating
and making them act young again
to reverse cellular senescence.

3-

*This One Trick Drove Dermatologists Crazy,
Doctors Hate Them!
This Crazy Thing They Don't Want YOU to Know About.
What They Learned Will Shock You!*

Suddenly here it is,
lab developed process of maintaining / sustaining
a youthful appearance. Lengthening the tips of chromosomes
is all so very expensive.

Renewal™ by Phoenix Labs
An influx of underclass pickers
housing shortages, bodies stuffed
anywhere like North Dakota in the oil boom.

The population driven mad by wanting...
Poor has disdain for the rich, rich
a fear of the poor,
and of accidents.

You can tell who takes,
the iris acquires an iridescent quality.
The taker always has on nice clothes,
Simple, form fitting, always brand new.

takers remain in small enclaves and barely travel -
connect to music festivals through technologies,
haptic responses wirelessly linked to the nervous system.
But they're envious of those who live free.

4.

For everyone else though, life goes on.
The Economy - after negative interest rates,
Helicopter Money,
stabilizes to a **new** new normal.

I met a loner that kept a garden.
A hidden world under a highway interchange,
the goat pasture begins behind an abandoned gas station.
A billboard reads *Feel free, Go Denver*.

I was worried about the neighbor.
A friend of hers passed away and
she doesn't come outside with her dog anymore.
Her car sits in the driveway, his van on the road.

An elderly man with a cowboy hat walks by in slow motion,
I believe he had a stroke.
He stays active by walking, he says hello when I say it first.
Strained, like most of my interactions on the East Side.

The Curator visits a wealthy couple in the North.
Wildflowers lined the drive toward a house
that sat above a spring fed pond
glimmered with aerators under the surface.

Brunching 15, 19 with staff
the owner of the home casually showed a video
of when he caught a fish with his
prosumer drone.

5.

Attached a line and a small fly lure
dragging it along the surface,
the ripples read, silhouettes of under story
both shadow and mirror of a joyless bird and sky.

50 feet? 80?

He scrubs forward to where a small fish,
perch maybe, was flapping on
its side next to the infinity pool.
No one knew what to do with it.

The eyes stare down at the screen -
Are they blue?
Or green?
Funny, they look sort of both at the same time.

A trove of strange artifacts;
jade statues,
jaguar remains, a box filled with carved shells
and rubber balls.

The shimmering, reflective qualities
of liquid mercury may have resembled
an underworld river
deep beneath a stepped pyramid.

The team discovered a richness of slime
filling the abandoned pneumatic transit system.
After obtaining a sample,
Ray is attacked by goo.

6.

Peter and Dana have dinner,
Egon, Ray, and Winston explore the underground river,
discovering that the slime
reacts to emotions generated by the negative attitudes of the city.

West Fork, Elm Fork,
interstates and estuaries.
86,000 miles of pipelines traversing 38 states transporting the oil
and gas products that make our lives possible.

Phoenix Labs starts the Berry Trust
for arts and culture.
Berry Trust makes The Griffin
to house their collection.

A young man with a generals brain
living in his tomb
joins a conference call -
life appointed board members talking figures.

His Taker eyes search the walls
landing on a Bonnard, and they narrow.
“We’ve got to trim the fat.”
While the curator drives a fuel cell Maserati.

“A rock is a rock or it’s a statue”
what I used to like to say to visitors.
Now they hire volunteers
while I pick berries.

