

Oana Sanziana Marian in English and Romanian

Contributed by Oana Sanziana Marian

Circus Song

The first words I said that day
were, "Danny, I don't want to die
a virgin anymore," to which he said,
without so much as turning over,
"Time enough, Lassie, time enough,"
and I had to wonder what I was
still doing there, wearing boys' underpants,
and waiting to be introduced.

Outside there were sounds I knew
from growing up in circus tents:
the organ-grinder playing "The Blue Danube,"
Janek's ice cream truck, the springs
of trampolines, the cannon shot,
but what about the sounds I couldn't
know to listen for?

And there was Danny,
curled up in the sheets like Saint Sebastian,
bleached and soft and wounded
by an archer who was long gone.

I made love; he slept.
I can't say I was unhappy
with our curious arrangement.

I was happy as a child
who'd never seen the ocean.Â CĂntec de circ
in Romanian, translated by Dan Sociu

Primul lucru pe care i l-am spus
dimineac a fost "Danny, nu mai vreau s mor
virgin", la care mi-a r spus,
f r ca m car s m priveasc -n fac ,
"Avem timp, Lassie, avem timp",
_i-a trebuit s m Ăntreb, Ăn schimb,
ce caut eu aici,
Ăntins pe spate, purtĂnd lenjerii b iece_ti,
a_teptĂnd s debutez Ăn societate.

De-afar se-auzeau sunete pe care le _tiam
din copil ria mea petrecut prin corturi de circ:
"Dun rea albastr " cĂntat la fla_net ,
clopocelul ma_inii de-nghecat a lui Janek,
arcurile trambulinelor,
tunul,
dar cum r mĂne
cu ce nu _tiam s ascult?

^i Danny Ănf _urat, ca SfĂntul Sebastian,
Ăn cear_afuri,
curat _i pufos _i r nit
de-un arca_ de mult plecat.

Eu am f cut dragoste; el a dormit.
N-a_ zice c eram nefericit
cu aranjamentul nostru ciudat.

Eram fericit ca un copil
care n-a v zut niciodat oceanul.Â Drawings by Danica Novgorodoff

See her website: www.danicanovgorodoff.com