

from THE LYDIAN GALE PARR

Karinne Keithley Syers

To be read in unison by two speakers. Lines with a // in the middle indicate two lines to be spoken simultaneously, assigned to the right and left speakers, respectively.

One

I came out of a high-walled city.

I saw the walls from the outside.

I was in the air, turning away.

I have done nothing.

I have done nothing to the cooing of pigeons.

I will give with an unsparing hand.

I dreamt there was another lobe of this city. The buildings were tall and made of stone.

I dreamt but I was only waiting.

I don't command.

I wrote a letter of pure friendship.

I was a long time looking.

I was speaking in terms even more ecstatic than those.

I don't pretend you could hear nothing. No, I don't pretend it.

I speak in terms even more dramatic than those.

I give you warning.

“I should be very glad to think of nothing!” said L. to me.

I am curious about this slender tree.

I will move at my ease through these agreeable stations.

I permit you to doubt it.

I give a clear account of nothing.

I knew a high-walled city not otherwise remembered.

I knew but had not been inside.

I spoke and manifested freely. // I spoke like a ghost.

Lead me out of the room.

Sit down in the silence. // Lie down in the silence.

Offer yourself for sale.

I can't see anything in it.

I turned away because I could not justify myself.

I remember myself then.

I remember myself looking up.

Look up again.

Looking up again.

Might be looking up now. // Might be lying down now.

I have said nothing.

I have said nothing to the anger of dogs or the frailty of windows.

I have said nothing to the grafting of plants or the startling of birds.

I have said nothing to your radio or to your computer.

I said these are ancient things.

I said I am Leslie Gale Parr.

My name is Lydian Leslie Parr.

I come from a high-walled city I cannot remember.

You must make it be quiet.

I need to sleep but cannot.

Might be sleeping now.

I have done nothing but remain near at hand.

I have done nothing but cook my dinners next to it.

I have done nothing but find out how to drive home.

I was curious about the slender tree.

I was moving at my ease through the spacious gallery.

I held or said something.

Take it out of the room.

Go on, take it out of the room.

I took it out of the room because I could not justify it.

It spoke in terms even more salacious than those.

It was a letter of pure disgust. // It was a letter of pure inquiry.