

Spring 2001

The Stone Letters: Departure

Nils Michals

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Michals, Nils (2001) "The Stone Letters: Departure," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 55 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss55/5>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

DEPARTURE

Galatea,

In answer to your answer: Yes,
blindedly so. At first light the silver service,
eggcups in the pose of swans. Wafers with jam.
Some sugared things, then the fine-particled studio
air, the slab's volcanic light and Russia full of scarlatines,
stork-waisted, wanting themselves marble.
They drag their foot scarves through tool dust.
They drop their ermine trains with such
performed privacy! Night is when Ivan
the Terrible whistles through his teeth
for Posnik Yakovlev. In question to your question:
perhaps the wind perceives most clear
because unexpected? Think of bulbed churches
foiled gold, faded in the wind's fits.
A counterfeit flicker so seems to say
St. Basil's when near, its nine cupolas'
bright applause hiding the city's fever,
so that peasant women, their minds turned pure sail,
open whatever they feel and who can argue,
who can tell them? They move on
unmoored and fade among the market canopies,
voices, a voice paling
in my slow-schooled ear: your name,
continent-sounding.

Pygmalion

*Posnik Yakovlev - architect of the St. Basil's Cathedral in the Kremlin. Ivan IV allegedly had Yakovlev's eyes removed so that he would not create another as beautiful.