

Demons

CHA X5, 2023

1.

We do not know their names. They do have names. But to know a demon's name is to hold it in your power – to single it out and subject it to the law. Instead we call them 'car face', 'anti-christ', 'drunk bird'. Our recognition is provisional. We do not know these demons and we cannot trust them. We must remain ever-vigilant lest they turn around and devour us.

2.

We know that they feel. That they are full of feeling. They are malice, weariness, glee, hurt, spite, fright, pride. And despite their monstrosity, we feel these feelings echo within ourselves. They feel the resonance too. They are curious, they are hungry. And they want to meet you.

3.

We know that they are multitude. They are without leadership. They neither agree with one another, nor speak with a shared voice. Yet they are always speaking: muttering, whispering, whining, cat-calling, screaming, babbling and moaning. They cannot be held to what they say. Their words are as steady and as lethal as smoke.

4.

We know that they travel in groups. They often appear in consistent size and neat rank. Don't let that fool you: there are always more out of sight. This is not to say they are infinite – merely uncountable. They are partial, excessive and elusive.

5.

We know that they cannot be stopped. Tearing up a demon might briefly dispel it. But they can endlessly return; and likely with less kindness next time. There is risk, but remember what they can offer: a whispered secret, wordless guidance, a taste of wild pleasure. Their grins are infectious, illuminating. Despite everything, we are grateful for their lethal presence.