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The Probabilities of Sinking for Kerry Coons

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Peter Neufeld

The Probabilities of Sinking for Kerry Coons

Altitudes often reach 30,000 feet or more
the improbability of flying

a nearly prenatal instinct
to fear death by falling

in human life
a lack of support or airspeed are inevitable

the process of travel
by boat for example

rusted rail and leaning
give way to

watch island
appear then disappear
turn head follow strict
increments of

horizontal gradations of

opaque to transparent mist

the brown of river
gives way imperceptibly
to the blue green of sea

Hard to express yourself clearly and to be heard. Support promised to be given turning out to be merely a dream. If looking for a mate, watch out for a possible serious mistake. Legal case in your favor. Winning good company. Meeting relatives. No lucks.

Tendency towards an aim does not imply that the aim is attained.

The aim is attainable only in approximations.

sugar snow
 beneath thick slabs of ice
give way to the occasional science
 of the avalanche
as unpredictable as they
 are imprecise

the firebreather speaks
a new language of heat and kerosene

members of that profession
are highly susceptible to consumption
and chronic bronchial inflammation

The loss of the Miranda was still fresh on everyone's mind. The main object of the expedition was to study Greenland's glacier system, the inland ice cap and icebergs; and to map the hitherto unknown portions of Melville Bay. Sketch the human, animal, and vegetable. Name life of the arctic region. Visit Peary's camp and bring back news of him in advance of his return. Return to Philadelphia. Drift into journalism. Engineer the mountains of Pennsylvania. He has since time traveled extensively. Hunted in the vicinity of Equator. Shot reindeer feeding on lichen in the Arctic Tundra.

little shrines
the house beautiful
in other time, other season

cousin Anthony and I
inspired little rivers
through suffering

little journeys
we found black pebbles
and cool to the touch
five sins of an architect

tick-tock treasures
the nursery
the infants magazine

the vanishing pictures
of yellow beauty
white wings and similar things

zigzag journeys around the world