



PEEPING MOT

A MAXWELL

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The Black Swan Tool

Or, the problem of the **black swan tool**.

Black swan, signifying a statistical exception that falsifies or repudiates a dominant worldview.

Swan tool, used by *recovery servicemen* to ‘break into’ a vehicle, often to free occupants without agency (eg, a child or a pet) from imprisonment.

The poem as **black swan tool** attempts to engineer an exception, an egress from ‘the literature’ — from the literary economy or marketplace — yet simultaneously also attempts to break into the vehicle of literary history, or the conceit of a bounded discipline and its progress.

Where aspirant poets desire to invent, but refuse or are impatient with the poem, the tool is the poetic *community*, or the *movement*.

The problem leads frequently to defensive publication — and the vector of poetry is away from publication.

key: DISCOVERY

All Good Poems Are in a Suitcase...

...on a baggage rack, on a train, in an anecdote by Hitchcock about the Scottish Highlands.

Julian Assange listens to the story, but refuses to point to the suitcase.

He's keeping a low cover, twisting his drink tickets between his fingers as if they were plot coupons in a story vehicle about narrative progress. He thinks if he can crack the suitcase, he'll have bought himself a new life.

All good poems are effectively autobiographies of the macguffin.

key: DISCOVERY

Mere Words

That minority is the *life* of poetry, and also its cruelty.
We know this, while holding to the curse.

It can't possibly be an epithet — but an essence.

key: ATTITUDES

Conditionals

'Sustainability' suggests permeable defenses, occulted valor and melancholy.

It's like the final opiate light ebbing in Altman's *McCabe & Mrs Miller*.

key: DEFINITIONS

This Time It's for Real

Against expression.

Really?

All this endurance of the business and the cruelty to arrive at reticence— and retention?

A hold-back project, as nostalgic as self-loathing, even where the self is accidentally yours.

My son is also against expression, mostly anxiously, surprised or unsure that he is also a container — until periodically he arrives at a consensus and participates — shitting copiously, and gratefully.

key: PROBLEMS