

Worker Jelly (07/03/2020)
Lucien Durey with Bess Durey
at Unit 17, Vancouver

Skyline

Silver scales
parquet flooring
patio tiles

Ruby-throated
14-storey
anthophiles

Window washers
anchors fastened
to the roof

No body unbreakable
or spirit shatterproof

Feast your eyes
postcard face picturesque

Baluster alight
windmill palm statuesque

Silver tongue
hazy veil crystallize

Walls talk
skies scrape
and highs rise

Skyline

O.

O, travelling to provide
taking our time apart in stride
We're fighting overseas
We're flying to the moon
I'm falling back to earth soon

O, how should I feel alive
casting my glory days aside?
A shadow of myself
my farewell resolute
I'm giving up the ghost soon

When I hit the ground
will you hit the ground running?
You always found
my mood swings unbecoming

Well, pie-in-the-sky
cool as a cucumber
happy-go-lucky
kiss me goodbye

O, 1945

We got hitched at a local dive
You promised me the world
For better or for worse
the centre of my universe

O, the struggle's bona fide
Every issue magnified
Apologies in advance
before the setting sun
I'm gonna bite the big one

Worker Jelly

Dear yellowjacket
memory photographic
my letter is overdue

I've compound eyed you
ultraviolet
circle the barbecue

Do you feel the way I feel?

I bolster the hive
foster larvae
pool the worker jelly

Driven to distraction
my pollen basket
is brimming melancholy

We have days or weeks
to live for the queen
to die for the colony

Do you fear the day I fear?

There is a garden
on a rooftop, Stardust
the wrought iron balcony

Together defectors
sip hibiscus nectar
awaiting catastrophe

Eureka!

Flashlight on tarmac
we took the road, aglow, back
for a toke, and a blowback, lakeside

Fascinating lights were hovering overhead
dazzling in August poses
Everything I'd known and never noticed

On a blanket in the grass
we looked at clouds, trading pareidolia
I saw my face under tissue and water

I remember drawing dresses in a closet
I remember calling "ready" when I wasn't