Kate Bush "Before The Fall"

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He got her drunk very guickly: holding hands they found the broom cupboard where he had control as far as the fall, the rasping descent of her tights. When his hand covered wet hairs she took over among furniture wax, dust, the cloying yellow of polishing cloth. When he was sick she comforted him. He couldn't do it properly: the club, the office had left out details of delight. Satisfied, he would collapse out, puzzled at why she still squirmed, held on to him, tears curling into her mouth. This was something stories always omitted: that her joy would seem like pain when he focused after release. In the third week of the relationship she was tripping on organic acid, would stop, pick up a rained out leaf, would give it into his hand, full of dead things before they reached the car. When they drove she sat with mouth open as though photographed on the impact of a stomach punch, her right hand gripping the skin of his leg: he feared her, slapped out sideways into her face. She touched the cut with her tongue, gurgling gratitude for the strange taste. He stood looking through uncleaned windows, concentrated on the yellow of his car below. On the uncarpeted floor, with practice, she closed her eyes and drew on the cigarette. Twill jacket and polo-neck made him sweat, his nape skin red from a hair cut. Between two smokers she smiled up at him; as the weed approached he apologised suddenly wanting familiar territories: beer, to put his hand up her skirt. At the bottom of the limbed stairs he booted the cat, a drop kick in their twenty-five as he imagined her sylph laugh

gathering chuckles around the

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