

Emmanuel Hocquard

CODICIL

Upstream on the River K

translated from the French by
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I

Petit Tonnerre
3 white chickens
 3 eggs every day
 perhaps only 2

off in the distance a stone bench
against the river

Lament for the Makers

“Tabula rasa
On which is set food”

& the market at Ribérac

II

& the market at Ribérac
 three grapefruit
 half a rabbit
 goose *rillettes*
 a salami
 two raw sausages

white onions
two heads of garlic
a penknife
a lightbulb
a crate of artichoke stems
 for Petit Tonnerre
two trout
yellow potatoes
salad greens
four bottles of Bergerac wine
sheep's milk cheese from Quercy
butter from Charentes

plenty of English

on the way home
not a mushroom in the woods

lunch under the lime trees
on the red oilcloth
in the company of chickens
 trout stuffed with marjoram

 and potatoes
 roasted in foil

then a canoe junket

 a small kingfisher
 the rain
 the soggy shoes

a very hot shower

the sky is a star

fire in the hearth

J. puts on make-up before dinner

sausages grilled
on the embers

divine Titus
you've drunk too much
go back to bed

III

FISHING PARTY

crossed the river in canoe
to install overselves
on a stump

cut those nettles
avoid slipping
keep the fishhook
out of the branches

over
on the other bank

Petit Tonnerre
is watching

downstream

three wild ducks
moorhens
a coypu (giant)

upstream

an orange box

made of plastic
prisoner of a dead tree

lost 2 hooks in the algae
a third in the branches

recrossed the river at 7 PM
for some whisky and beer

fallen in the water during the manoeuvre
bravo!

return at nightfall

closed the henhouse
gutted the fish

September 10

IV

softboiled eggs
overcast sky

morning temperature
the leaves are falling

the leaves of the two poplars begin to fall

little children
it's the beginning of autumn

how to say *the leaves fall*
without something obvious
like *back to school*

how to say the leaves fall
in the poem
without saying anything other
than *the leaves fall*

establish the list
of the dead leaves

don't photograph the leaves
falling
in the morning mist

print the list
and *print* the word mist

print for dinner tonight
half a rabbit with carrots

V

first rains of autumn

the river has risen

the river is a metaphor
greenish brown

a giant coypu
a watery door
a *how* of *me*

the water lilies have disappeared beneath the surface
the poplar leaves and the chickens
invade the kitchen
and the market at Chalais

Rose's cheese
quail Rotisseur
supermarket shopping
during the shower

VI

Received *Kub Or* at Nabinaud
we are the robots
tourists

2 windows knocked
in the wall facing the river

177. *What I know, I believe*
might become
what I believe, I know

is such knowledge well-founded?

I believe that these chickens like us
means they like us
without a doubt

without a doubt =
I dream it or I fear it

I know that these chickens like us
= they like us
cf. The pleasure of fish

the current is too strong
no more fishing

I believe it's going to rain =
I know it is
with only a little doubt

such is my fear

if it rains
my feet will be soggy
once again

but such is not my dream

print *the word dream*

VII

2nd market at Ribérac
in the rain

breast of duck
an entire rabbit (a giant)
red wine and white wine
sausages from Toulouse
liverwurst
blood sausage
carrots
grapefruit
goose *rillettes*
artichoke stems
*for the pony of M****
please

VIII

no river within no banks

behind its bars
the river K also
has no banks

the banks enable us
to imagine a river

they are

the end of the meadow
a line of trees
the ancient railway bridge
a canoe
two anglers and their lines

the enemies of the river

dead trees
spanning the current
stone weirs
waterflowers

the river
doesn't know them

only the fish are in the river's faction
we can't see them

just as we see nothing
of the river but the shield
covered in reflections

a brown cloud
brown foliage
the big coypu
1 kingfisher
3 wild ducks
and the moorhens

the river K is impregnable

the islands taught me that

IX

all along the line
(ballast under asphalt)

OVERHANGING TREES

the meadow of sleeping cows
and the meadow of standing cows

the two metal bridges
of the ancient railroad

CAFÉ DES DEUX RIVIÈRES

the Brousse and the Ausonne
but no fax at the post office
in Petit Bersac

in the lawn behind the house

shaggy caps
psalliotes (field mushrooms)
chanterelles

in the undergrowth
yellow light from the ground
and the sign

MUSHROOMS FORBIDDEN

the cepes
the amanites
the

on the way back

staves and slugs
goose farm

got ourselves lost in the forest

September 30th

signed Möbius