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*from* METAMORPHOSES

XXI

when I first put this suit on  
it was cold and stiff  
I felt caught behind its seams  
its zippers and buttons  
my movements were unnatural  
my walk the way I sat  
the way I thought and felt  
suddenly became self-conscious  
my body became a stranger  
whose actions I could watch

all this in the beginning  
because little by little  
the suit began giving in  
it got softer  
it took the shape of my body and movements  
which had become once again  
free and un-self-conscious  
to the point of believing that  
I was just dressed in my own skin  
when he first got inside me  
he was nervous and scared  
he was constantly fighting my zippers  
and buttons he was trying to rip my seams  
and give me the shape of his naked body  
he felt like a trapped animal  
and like a cage I had to resist him  
I was as tough as I could be in the beginning  
so he would forget what he was before  
so he would get used to my mold and I would then

pretend that was his form that I had assumed  
so that now he is at the point of believing  
that he had never existed outside of me

like my being his very own skin?

#### XXIV

my profession is to get other people drunk  
my entire life depends on my clients' intoxication  
which is why it better not be quick or sudden  
but deliberate and slow

besides my clients should not feel  
lonely or ridiculous at the thought that I  
the sober one am laughing at their antics

so I have to drink  
I get drunk with them I sing  
I do all the crazy things they do all night long  
till dawn  
when I can be by myself  
and behind lowered blinds

count the take

*translated by Stavros Deligiorgis*