shell of clouds

Margie Cronin

1. one excuse

One excuse was to say I forgot the time (or you simply ran out of time)

Time, for something so relative; (lying on the beach): works remarkably well (we always used it instead of humour)

There was always plenty of it to fight in And none left to quickly make love in the morning (before work)

(We'll make up for it later) But there was a storm (and you had to spend the night) in another town looking over the sun But rain rains down inside my ear With that noise inside of shells (It never changes) and I can't hear (that you are waiting)

But I don't need any evidence to know that time is culpable

2. two ways of arriving at surrealism

How many dreams present the life of the protagonist? the girl with only one heart? someone on the run?

He was standing on the corner miming a scene of torture when he heard the first sound (more like somethin' bashed loose) and his leg fell into the gutter He had his foot in the stream The sun, just pulling up its toes under that cloud At that moment he knew just what that leg was worth (he had no idea, exactly, what a leg was worth)

The girl was walking, so slow down the beach Crying. Her tears delivered up to her by clouds with tiny hands of salt She's got straight hair and a new nose

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(they bashed it with a little hammer till it came loose) It was worth a lot to her she even gave up being the Queen of Egypt

And it was only by accident: the car with a scalpel; the surgeon losing control; inside a shell, the sky -

3. three times around the moon

And it's just a game Put it up to your ear

Out driving the shadows rush to meet us Our mistakes

He asked Can we still be in love when dirt is falling from the sun With the moon rolling its knuckles over my back

And she was slow like a snail to answer Go another three times round the sky It's safe we live inside