

FYRIOTALESTERNA CORPSE

My furby is building a building of
menaleius plucked elecanipane, no I lied
rain and green leaf language naming the world
incipent periwinkles fill me dreams
just wanted some loyal love, nomadic
I am a pack mentality wolf so don't mess with
me wondering how do you say that word a wish is a
thing is it rains too much

In August 2008, on a rainy day at Bernadette’s and Phil’s East Nassau house, we sat inside and sometimes on the porch listening to the heavy storm and entertaining ourselves with writing games. Bernadette had the 1965 *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* on her lap, leading us in various Surrealist, Oulipian, and self-invented exercises. Our exquisite corpse grew from a game where we all tried to guess the definition of “fyrtiotalisterna.” Possibilities included: a furtive attention to internal lists, a talismanic text, how to wish upon a star, one who makes too many lists, and furby’s graduate school. We learned later that Fyrtiotalisterna was a 1940s Swedish poetry movement.

What about furby? According to Lee Ann, she bought a furby for her daughter Miranda “. . . at a house auction in Fairview right outside of Asheville - still in its wrapping. The guy whose estate it was apparently used to do a lot of Ebay biz but had since gotten a divorce and split to South America. Furby lives in Marshall, NC now and is hibernating.”

—Jennifer Karmin