

A Small Handful

for Solo Voice

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1. Where It Was At Back Then

Joyously ♩ = 112
sfp — *f*

rit. *sweetly glowing* ♩ = 56

Voice

Hu(h), — Hu(h), Hus-band, last night I dreamt they cut off — your hands — and feet.

4 **Tempo I** ♩ = 112 *mp* — *f* *remote, deadened*
mp sub.

Hu(h), Hu(h), Hus - band, you — whis-pered to — me, — Now we are both — in-com-plete.

6 *rit.* **Moving forward, with a strong pulse** ♩ = 50
sickly *sfp* — *mp* *espr.*

Hu(h), Hus - band, I — held all four — in my arms like

9 sons — and daugh-ters. — Hu(h), Hu(h), Hus-band, I — bent slow-ly down and washed them in

11 *incalzando*

mag-i-cal wa - - ters. Hu(h), Hus-band, I — placed each one where it be-

14 *f dolce, a piacere*
cresc. *accel.*

longed on you. — “A mir - a-cle,” — you said and we la-(ha ha ha)-aughed,

17 ♩ = 60 *rit. al fine*
f *mp senza vib.*

la - (ha ha) - (h)aughed the laugh — of the well - to - do.

2. Music Swims Back To Me

Deadened, dry $\text{♩} = 56$

Voice *p* Wait Mis-ter. Which way — is home? *faster* They turned the light — out *mp p sub.*

Tempo I
3 *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *senza vib.* and the dark — is mov - ing in the cor - ner. *faster, agitated* There are no sign posts in — this room, *mf ord.* moving forward

6 *mp* *mf* *p* *incalzando poco a poco* four la - dies, o-ver eigh-ty, *senza vib.* in dia-pers ev-ery-one of them. *mf* La la la, — Oh *mp espr. ord. p sub.*

9 *mf* mu - sic swims back to me — and I can — feel the tune — they —

14 *p sub.* played the night — they left — me *mf* *p*

18 *mp dry, pulling back* in this pri-vate in-sti-tu - tion on — a hill. **Broadly, driven** $\text{♩} = 64$ *cresc.* Im - ag - ine it. A **Tempo I**

20 *mf* *f* ra - di - o play - ing — and ev - ery - one — here — was cra 3 - zy. I *mp sub.*

23 *mf > p* *rubato* liked it — and danced in — a cir - - cle. *mp* Mu - sic pours — o - ver the *mf*

27 *f* *mf sub.* sense and in a fun 3 - ny way *f* mu - sic sees — more than I. *senza vib. p*

29 *faster* *ord.* *mp* *p* $\text{♩} = 76$ *mf* brightly, with edge

I mean it re - mem - bers - bet - ter; re - mem - bers the first night

31

here. It was the stran - gled cold - of No - vem - ber; e - ven the stars were

rit. *Slower* $\text{♩} = 66$ *mp* with a rounded tone

35 *ord.*

strapped in the sky - and that moon too bright fork - ing - through the bars to - stick

40 *senza vib.* *mp sub., agitated* *f*

- me with a sing - ing in the head. I have for - got - ten all the rest.

quick, deadened, dry, senza vib.

43 *p* *mf* *mp sub.* *p* *mf* *mp*

They lock me in this chair at eight a. m. and there are no signs to tell the way,

Broadly $\text{♩} = 66$

44 *mf* *mp* *mf* *ord.* *mp* *mf*

just the ra - di - o beat - ing to it - self

47 *mp sub.* *mf* *mp* *mf espr.*

and the song - that re - mem - bers more - than I. - Oh, la la la, - this

49

mu - sic - swims back to me. The night - I -

52 *f* *mf* *mf*

came I danced - a cir - cle

53 *a piacere* *mf* *p* *mp*

and was not - a - fraid. - Mis - ter?

pulling back to deadened senza vib. al fine

3. Seven Times

Intimate and free ♩ = 30

mp *mf* *mp*

Voice

I — died sev - en — times in sev - en — ways — let - ting

Moving ahead, now with a strong pulse

4

mf *mp*

death — give me a sign, — let - ting — death — place his — mark — on my

7

mf *p sub.* *incalzando* *mf*

fore - head, — crossed o - ver, — crossed o - ver. — And

Pushing forward ♩ = 42

10

f *freely* *mp* *mf*

death took root in that sleep. In that — sleep — I — held an ice — ba - by — and I —

14

mp *p* *f* *ff espr. molto* *mf*

suddenly quite gentle

rocked — it and was rocked by — it. — Oh Ma - don - - na, —

17

mp *3* *rit.* *p*

Slower, with a strong pulse again

hold — me. — I — am — a small — hand - ful.