

## Arrivals//Departures

Distant shores

Beneath my feet staves, the boat  
yet moored  
rocks rhythmically  
the oarsman awaited  
Night hastens

Crypts and catacombs

jars of oil, jars of ashes  
All roads lead to Rome

Departures//Arrivals

Turbulence  
fasten your seat belts,  
Change is in the air

Once rooted things fly through the night sky

WATCH OUT

A cluster of time zones inhabits the soul //No two kisses  
are ever the same

My dear Flavia  
I hope you are well  
and safe  
my heart  
torn by unknowing

Neighbors flee in the night  
in empty rooms doors swing  
altars stained with useless tears  
faithless the gods  
departed

I beg you, send word

if you can

## From Republic

to empire: to ashes  
to dust  
men with knives gather on the porch      Hail Caesar  
It won't take very long. It never does.

## Arrivals//Departures

## Turbulence

## Change is in the air      Take the Air Train

## Take the Air Train

*Terra Firma // Despite the hour, the car was waiting  
We sped past ghostly monuments  
“on your right...” and “up ahead...”*

In the campagna, near Paestum, we ate bufala mozzarella which was fresh milk the day before

Time steps into daylight. They called it Magna Graecia, the clash of armies never far from Homeric wanderings.

## WATCH OUT!

## Hold steady

## UP the coast

and DOWN

## Watchtowers ablaze with warning      People on the move

## Argonauts and armies

## Arrivals//Departures    Turbulence    People on the move

## seeking//fleeing

floods//fires//droughts//too many  
lost//footsteps spill from the sea//

breath emptying on a shallow shore

But my trip, you ask,  
How was it?  
Rome is vast  
its layers beyond counting  
its beauty beyond reckoning

Time fills your eyes  
gets beneath the fingernails  
clings to your shoes  
grips the Amalfi coast  
villages vault vertically  
islands offshore unfold  
in mist and myth

the new city, Naples,  
warm to the touch  
no matter where you stand  
under ravishing blue sky you see  
you feel the darkness  
Vesuvio  
ever looming  
never sleeping  
only waiting

Ahoy,  
Boatman...