

## 86. *Paulownia Tomentosa*

*His "Good Day!" was always overcast.*

Ramon Gomez de la Serna

& yes, he was from Seattle. & yes, the sun was shining that particular Friday in the season of lilac blossoms and a full bloom Empress Tree, Princess Tree, *Paulownia tomentosa*, stolen from central and western China but an invader here loving the lack of competition for what sun there is, shaping purple hanging bell blossoms and *leaves in whorls of three*. We sit under it, take fotos, are there if we think about it, Lakewood Park.

& by *good day*

he meant, in Seattle nice, courtesy and not much else, will wait for your street crossing, will not honk, "a city of the mind . . . a city of geeks. People here . . . totally blow you off" the newcomer'd say in The Times. But not at the stop sign beyond the Empress Tree. Not at the four way stop where *you go no you go no you go* & the guy from Chicago goes knowing your M.O., knowing driving the car "is personality enshrined."

& overhead's a helicopter shopping for dark-skinned shooting suspects & here the "anti-capitalism May Day riots" only 3 businesses w/ busted windows & here a view of deep Elliott Bay azul under snow-capped Olympics seeking a hearing. *Good day*, always overcast, always an undertone, somewhere the intimacy's obscured. Some know the names of dogs at the dog park but not the ones the other side of the leash. Not the neighbor's name or wife, but their latté order or wifi-signal & how much in their compost bin. Is it the weather? Topography? It is a "social script that leads to alienation" but Emmett Watson didn't want you here anyway and we can't make a left on Denny at 1:40 in the afternoon & bike-riders forego single file just to hack at you & your humongous carbon footprint. In Slaughter I once saw a yard sign that said simply: "Vote No!" Can whip it out for any election. *Vote No*, democracy easy as yard

signs & being against. (Just put a line through it.)  
Easy as stopping for one pedestrian or take a pill or  
cut it out, or the bombing starts in 5 minutes or the  
settler prehension a century after the perimeter's  
secured.

& yes, the sun shines that particular Friday  
the season of late magnolia blossoms, of English  
Heather, or Scotch Broom petals sticking their  
heads out of leaves this side the highway, season of  
lilac blossoms & the full bloom Empress Tree,  
Princess Tree.

*Paulownia tomentosa*,  
stolen from western China  
but just an invader here  
like you & me.

3:00P - 5.3.13  
@ Louisa's