

i. | *Killer Cain.*

When Killer Cain had done his worst,
he was vigorously cursed
and, with melancholy air,
began to wander here and there
and found that every door was closed
and every heart aggrieved and ill-disposed.

Just when all hope had gone
and Cain was heaving tearful sighs
a curling gliding creature came along
with slender tail and sympathetic eyes:

*We knew your parents well.
We took their part when they so swiftly fell
from grace and were so tragically maligned.
Here at the world's remotest end
our outcast breed will always be inclined
to greet a child of Adam as a friend.*

*We know all about misanthropy and strife
and how one brother
might so easily kill another
with a knife*

*and we greet
your story with that eagerness
with which unswerving sharks express
their love for meat.*

*It's only fair to mention
an enduring source of tension
on these distant shores -
the awkward oversized feet of dinosaurs.*

*They won't endure for ever,
being far too big and not too clever,
and, with every passing night,
they sing the same sad song
of how they are so right
and how they soon might all be gone.*

*And finally, we've heard reports
about your wish for solitude.*

*We fully comprehend
how the burden of celebrity
can leave you out of sorts
and, so, we recommend
a place where no one will intrude.*

*There you can wait until the end of time –
alone and free
with your story and your crime.*