An Inventory…

2011 Sarah Bodman for *An Inventory of Al-Mutanabbi Street*

A rustle of paper, a folded sheet, a tacked up

poster, the clink of a glass cup of tea, the smell

of mint, steam, hot water trickles, paper, ink, a

cigarette stub, a smile, an envelope opened, a

fresh stack of newspapers waiting to be read, a

heart, a tottering pile of books, a colourful

magazine, the scent of warm air, the heat of

midday, texts on paper, the dimness of nightfall,

candles dripping, lights glowing, a desk full of

paperwork, images and photographs vie for

attention, a scuff of dirt, a tray of drinks, a

hidden manuscript, a pair of glasses rubbed

with a cloth, a cloud overhead, refreshing

raindrops splatter, bright sunshine erupts, an

umbrella drips in a corner, a single sheet of

paper, a scribbled line, a stain is cleaned,

tobacco is stuffed in a chorus of pipes, a gentle

stroll through the paperbacks and manuals, a

tap drips quietly, an aside, a paper bag clasps a

newly purchased precious book, a conversation

finishes, a nod, a bird swoops overhead, a

frown, a car sidles past, metal, wood, stone, a

bicycle bell rings, a bag sways, a purse opens, a

mirror shines, a scrape of shoes, a door handle

turns, a knee is bruised, the sky overhead, a

butterfly flits, a bonefolder scores, a moth

settles, a bird sings, a bundle is gathered, a

notebook is drawn in, a bookmark slips between

pages, a cup settles, a table is leant on, a stub

of pencil is licked, dusk falls, a shelf slopes, a

line of words cross the page, a splinter is pulled,

a headline is noted, spring blossoms, a

photograph is taken, the click of a shutter, a

man smiles, a child laughs, a sticker is given, a

song plays on the radio, a stick, a woman

writes, a letter is folded, a stamp is stuck, a

glass is raised, a teapot pours, an ashtray

overflows, a typewriter is pounded, carbon

paper copies, lines agree, chalk is licked,

newsprint piles up in unwieldy stacks, a fly

alights, a memory is made, a sheet of paper, a

gentle fold, a staple is unpicked, a door opens,

another one closes, a pathway is worn through

piles of paper, a window looks over, string is

tied, a handshake is made, a greeting is called,

a toy is played with, a ribbon is tied, a length of

cotton is cut, a soul passes by, autumn leaves,

a shaft of light, a strip of paper is carefully torn,

an argument is settled, a title is decided, a

receipt is written, water is mopped, a caption

explains, a brow is wiped, a piece of bread is

dropped, the smell of coffee lingers, a feather

twirls in the breeze, summer heat, a small bell

jingles, the click of a pen, a length is cut, a leaf

is collected, a poet posits, a kettle sings, a

writer scribbles, a bookseller calls, a page turns,

a cover is blocked, a printer watches, a press

rattles, a dictionary is consulted, a zine is

copied, a codex opens, an alley meanders, an

artist sketches, a manual is dog eared, coffee

bubbles, morning arrives, young laughter peals,

a comic is opened, sweet wrappers unwind, a

cornet of paper, a chair is dragged to a busy

table, a bottle is dipped in, a debate is argued, a

glass of water, graffiti, a brush flows over paper,

a paradise is mentioned, cologne wafts, lunch is

eaten, a rustle of pages, a greeting card is

signed, a pen is pocketed, a ruler is aligned,

thunder rumbles in the distance, a soft pencil

traces, a gift is given, a promise is made,

darkness wanes, a journal waits, a shaving of

ice is drizzled with syrup, a delivery is made, a

gathering of shoes tumbles, a walk through the

pages, a ghost slips by, cups are washed, a

future is dreamed of, a cat stretches, words

abound, a sigh goes unnoticed, winter chills,

hope is given, a footprint falls, dust settles,

smoke puffs, a place recalled, a sheet ruffled, a

sentence completed, dinner is taken, a glimpse,

a message, a call, a discussion, coins rattle, a

carrier bag rustles, a history is remembered, a

past is forgotten, a present is here, a sign is

painted, a flag flutters, a telephone rings, a

step, a stairway, a ledge holds a flowerpot, a dog

sleeps, a pamphlet circulates, a drawer is

shunted, a drawing emerges, an inkpad is

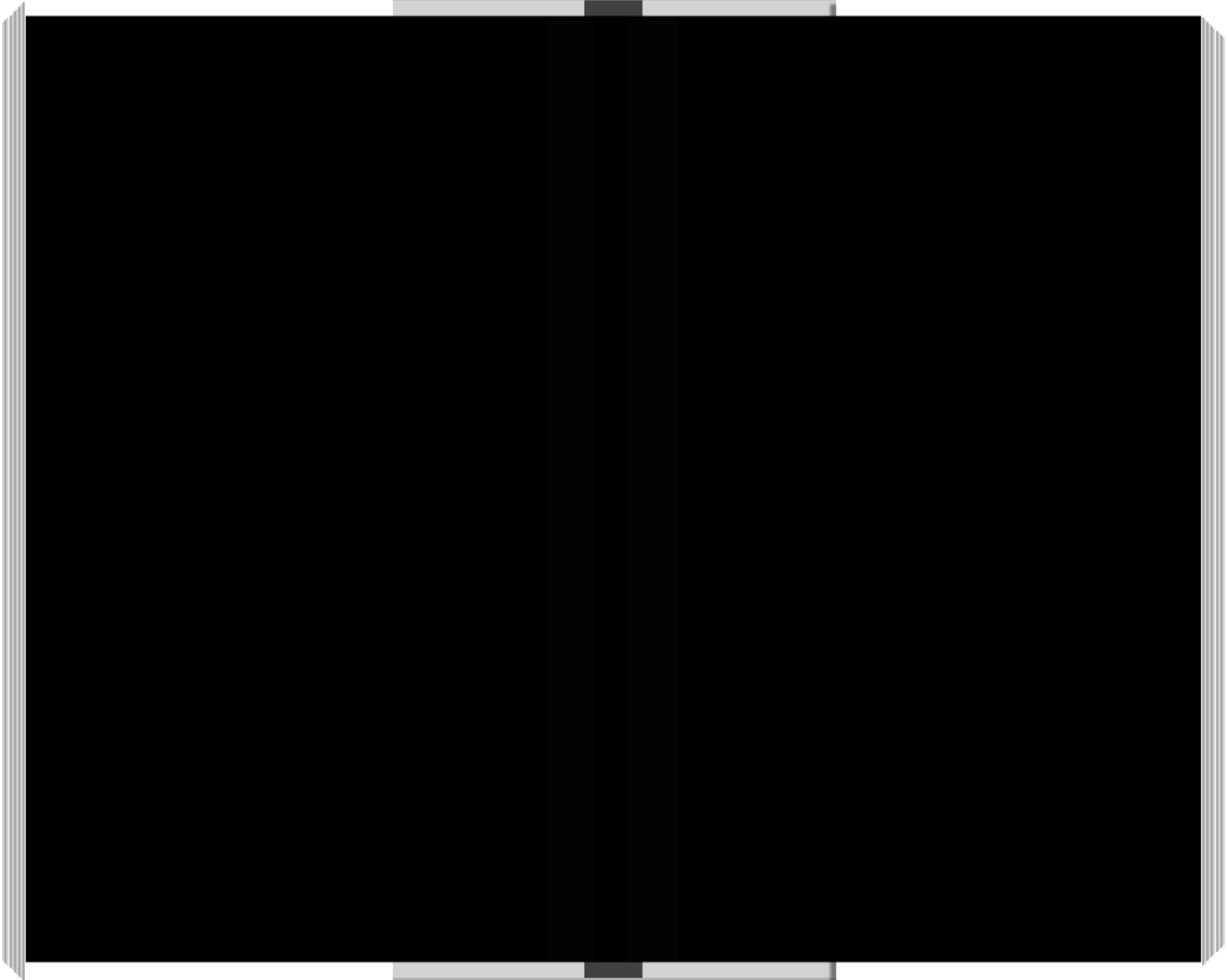
freshened, a folder opens, a needle is threaded,

a purchase admired, a label is stuck, a block is

made, a badge is pinned, a button stitched,

leather is softened, a dream, a whisper is heard,

a sea of booksellers, a shout in the midst…



A rustle of paper

a folded sheet

a feather twirls in the breeze

a gentle fold

a tacked up poster

tears

a scuff of dirt

stone

a length is cut

a brow is wiped

a title is decided

a bottle is dipped in

a codex opens

a bonefolder scores

morning arrives

a door opens

an inkpad is freshened

a drawing emerges

a ruler is aligned

dust settles

a strip of paper is carefully torn

lines agree

a moth settles

thunder rumbles in the distance

water is mopped

a staple is unpicked

a page turns

darkness wanes

a promise is made

a line of words cross the page

a stain is cleaned

tobacco is stuffed in a chorus of pipes

a journal waits

a poet posits

a sentence completed

a tap drips quietly

a gift is given

a soft pencil traces

string is tied

newsprint piles up

a song plays on the radio

a memory is made

a window looks over

a cat stretches

an alley meanders

the dimness of nightfall

a piece of bread is dropped

the smell of coffee lingers

a glass of tea

a sign is painted

a brush flows over paper

a button is stitched

leather is softened

a soul passes by

a bookmark slips between pages

a cup settles

a cover is blocked

a typewriter is pounded

a butterfly flits

a manual is dog eared

a sheet ruffled

a shaft of light

a bird swoops overhead

a knee is bruised

a gathering of shoes tumbles

a sigh

lunch is eaten

a door handle turns

a bundle is gathered

a notebook is drawn in

an envelope is opened

a woman writes a letter is folded
a stamp is stuck a glass is raised an ashtray overflows
a pathway is worn through a handshake is made

lights glowing a desk full of paperwork images and photographs vie for attention a tray of drinks a hidden manuscript a pair of glasses rubbed with a cloth

a cloud overhead

refreshing an umbrella drips in a corner
a scribbled line

a shelf

slopes a splinter is pulled a headline is noted spring blossoms a photograph is taken the click of a shutter a man smiles a child a sticker is given

a ribbon a length is cut autumn leaves an argument is settled

the clink of

steam hot water trickles
paper ink a fresh stack

waiting to be read a heart a tottering pile

books

a comic is opened a cornet of paper a chair is dragged to a table a debate is argued graffiti a paradise is mentioned

the heat of midday the dimness
of nightfall

signed
a pen is pocketed

a shaving of ice

a delivery is made

a walk through the pages

a ghost slips
by

cups are washed a future is dreamed of

words abound a sigh goes unnoticed

winter chills

hope is

smoke puffs dinner is taken a message a call a discussion rattles

a

telephone rings a step a stairway a ledge holds a flowerpot a dog sleeps a folder opens a needle is threaded

a single sheet of paper

opens

a small bell jingles
a kettle sings

the click of a pen a leaf is collected

a
bookseller calls

a paper bag

paperbacks

manuals an aside

clasping a book

a nod a frown a

press rattles

a dictionary is consulted

a

copied

an alley meanders

sketches

coffee

syrup

rustles a past is

a present is

flutters a a label is stuck

a

is pinned

a dream

A rustle of paper, a folded sheet, a tacked up poster, the clink of a glass cup of tea, the smell of mint, steam, hot water trickles, paper, ink, a cigarette stub, a smile, an envelope opened, a fresh stack of newspapers waiting to be read, a heart, a tottering pile of books, a colourful magazine, the scent of warm air, the heat of midday, texts on paper, the dimness of nightfall, candles dripping, lights glowing, a desk full of paperwork, images and photographs vie for attention, a scuff of dirt, a tray of drinks, a hidden manuscript, a pair of glasses rubbed with a cloth, a cloud overhead, refreshing raindrops splatter, bright sunshine erupts, an umbrella drips in a corner, a single sheet of paper, a scribbled line, a stain is cleaned, tobacco is stuffed in a chorus of pipes, a gentle stroll through the paperbacks and manuals, a tap drips quietly, an aside, a paper bag clasps a newly purchased precious book, a conversation finishes, a nod, a bird swoops overhead, a frown, a car sidles past, metal, wood, stone, a bicycle bell rings, a bag sways, a purse opens, a mirror shines, a scrape of shoes, a door handle turns, a knee is bruised, the sky overhead, a butterfly flits, a bonefolder scores, a moth settles, a bird sings, a bundle is gathered, a notebook is drawn in, a bookmark slips between pages, a cup settles, a table is leant on, a stub of pencil is licked, dusk falls, a shelf slopes, a line of words cross the page, a splinter is pulled, a headline is noted, spring blossoms, a photograph is taken, the click of a shutter, a man smiles, a child laughs, a sticker is given, a song plays on the radio, a stick, a woman writes, a letter is folded, a stamp is stuck, a glass is raised, a teapot pours, an ashtray overflows, a typewriter is pounded, carbon paper copies, lines agree, chalk is licked, newsprint piles up in unwieldy stacks, a fly alights, a memory is made, a sheet of paper, a gentle fold, a staple is unpicked, a door opens, another one closes, a pathway is worn through piles of paper, a window looks over, string is tied, a handshake is made, a greeting is called, a toy is played with, a ribbon is tied, a length of cotton is cut, a soul passes by, autumn leaves, a shaft of light, a strip of paper is carefully torn, an argument is settled, a title is decided, a receipt is written, water is mopped, a caption explains, a brow is wiped, a piece of bread is dropped, the smell of coffee lingers, a feather twirls in the breeze, summer heat, a small bell jingles, the click of a pen, a

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a codex opens, an alley meanders, an artist sketches, a manual is dog eared, coffee bubbles, morning arrives, young laughter peals, a comic is opened, sweet wrappers unwind, a cornet of paper, a chair is dragged to a busy table, a bottle is dipped in, a debate is argued, a glass of water, graffiti, a brush flows over paper, a paradise is mentioned, cologne wafts, lunch is eaten, a rustle of pages, a greeting card is signed, a pen is pocketed, a ruler is aligned, thunder rumbles in the distance, a soft pencil traces, a gift is given, a promise is made, darkness wanes, a journal waits, a shaving of ice is drizzled with syrup, a delivery is made, a gathering of shoes tumbles, a walk through the pages, a ghost slips by, cups are washed, a future is dreamed of, a cat stretches, words abound, a sigh goes unnoticed, winter chills, hope is given, a footprint falls, dust settles, smoke puffs, a place recalled, a sheet ruffled, a sentence completed, dinner is taken, a glimpse, a message, a call, a discussion, coins rattle, a carrier bag rustles, a history is remembered, a past is forgotten, a present is here, a sign is painted, a flag flutters, a telephone rings, a step, a stairway, a ledge holds a flowerpot, a dog sleeps, a pamphlet circulates, a drawer is shunted, a drawing emerges, an inkpad is freshened, a folder opens, a needle is threaded, a purchase admired, a label is stuck, a block is made, a badge is pinned, a button stitched, leather is softened, a dream, a whisper is heard, a sea of booksellers… A rustle of paper, a folded sheet, a tacked up poster, the clink of a glass cup of tea, the smell of mint, steam, hot water trickles, paper, ink, a cigarette stub, a smile, an envelope opened, a fresh stack of newspapers waiting to be read, a heart, a tottering pile of books, a colourful magazine, the scent of warm air, the heat of midday, texts on paper, the dimness of nightfall, candles dripping, lights glowing, a desk full of paperwork, images and photographs vie for attention, a scuff of dirt, a tray of drinks, a hidden manuscript, a pair of glasses rubbed with a cloth, a cloud overhead, refreshing raindrops splatter, bright sunshine erupts, an umbrella drips in a corner, a single sheet of paper, a scribbled line, a stain is cleaned, tobacco is stuffed in a chorus of pipes, a gentle stroll through the paperbacks and manuals, a tap drips quietly, an aside, a paper bag clasps a newly purchased precious book, a conversation finishes, a nod, a bird swoops overhead, a frown, a car sidles past, metal, wood, stone, a bicycle bell rings, a bag sways, a purse opens, a mirror shines, a scrape of shoes, a door handle turns, a knee is bruised, the sky overhead, a butterfly flits, a bonefolder scores, a moth settles, a bird sings, a bundle is gathered, a notebook is drawn in, a bookmark slips between pages, a cup settles, a table is leant on, a stub of pencil is licked, dusk falls, a shelf slopes, a line of words cross the page, a splinter is pulled, a headline is noted, spring blossoms, a photograph is taken, a dream, a whisper is heard, a sea of booksellers…

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