

RED



ERIC SHANFIELD

RED

Eric Shanfield | 2015 | 15'

poem by Anne Carson

for Rebecca Morgan

Soprano

Piano

Geryon was a monster. Everything about him was red.

So begins Anne Carson's retelling in verse of the story of the monster Geryon, killed by Herakles for his magical red cattle as part of his labors. This composition sets *Red Meat: Fragments of Stesichorus* from *Autobiography of Red*, the first of two novels in verse Carson has dedicated to reimagining Geryon's saga, originally told in a lost poem known as the *Geryoneis* ("The Geryon Matter") by the Greek poet Stesichoros in the seventh century, B.C.

All that remains of Stesichoros are some fragments and a story that he was struck blind by Helen of Troy for slandering or abusing her in print. An encomium then came to him in a dream and, having written it, his sight was restored. The palinode reads simply: No it is not the true story./No you never went on the benched ships./No you never came to the towers of Troy.

Red was written in the summer of 2015 and is dedicated to Rebecca Morgan, without whom it would not exist.

RED MEAT: FRAGMENTS OF STESICHOROS
translated by Anne Carson

I. GERYON

Geryon was a monster everything about him was red
Put his snout out of the covers in the morning it was red
How stiff the red landscape where his cattle scraped against
Their hobbles in the red wind
Burrowed himself down in the red dawn jelly of Geryon's
Dream

Geryon's dream began red then slipped out of the vat and ran
Upsail broke silver shot up through his roots like a pup

Secret pup At the front end of another red day

II. MEANWHILE HE CAME

Across the salt knobs it was Him
Knew about the homegold
Had sighted red smoke above the red spires

III. GERYON'S PARENTS

If you persist in wearing your mask at the supper table
Well Goodnight Then they said and drove him up
Those hemorrhaging stairs to the hot dry Arms
To the ticking red taxi of the incubus
Don't want to go want to stay Downstairs and read

IV. GERYON'S DEATH BEGINS

Geryon walked the red length of his mind and answered No
It was murder And torn to see the cattle lay
All these darlings said Geryon And now me

V. GERYON'S REVERSIBLE DESTINY

His mother saw it mothers are like that
Trust me she said Engineer of his softness
You don't have to make up your mind right away
Behind her red right cheek Geryon could see
Coil of the hot plate starting to glow

VI. MEANWHILE IN HEAVEN

Athena was looking down through the floor
Of the glass-bottomed boat Athena pointed
Zeus looked *Him*

VII. GERYON'S WEEKEND

Later well later they left the bar went back to the centaur's
Place the centaur had a cup made out of a skull Holding three
Measures of wine Holding it he drank Come over here you can
Bring your drink if you're afraid to come alone The centaur
Patted the sofa beside him Reddish yellow small alive animal
Not a bee moved up Geryon's spine on the inside

VIII. GERYON'S FATHER

A quiet root may know how to holler He liked to
Suck words Here is an almighty one he would say
After days of standing in the doorway
NIGHTBOLLSNORTED

IX. GERYON'S WAR RECORD

Geryon lay on the ground covering his ears The sound
Of the horses like roses being burned alive

X. SCHOOLING

In those days the police were weak Family was strong
Hand in hand the first day Geryon's mother took him to
School She neatened his little red wings and pushed him
In through the door

XI. RIGHT

Are there many little boys who think they are a
Monster? But in my case I am right said Geryon to the
Dog they were sitting on the bluffs The dog regarded him
Joyfully

XII. WINGS

Steps off a scraped March sky and sinks
Up into the blind Atlantic morning One small
Red dog jumping across the beach miles below
Like a freed shadow

XIII. HERAKLES' KILLING CLUB

Little red dog did not see it he felt it All
Events carry but one

XIV. HERAKLES' ARROW

Arrow means kill It parted Geryon's skull like a comb Made
The boy neck lean At an odd slow angle sideways as when a
Poppy shames itself in a whip of Nude breeze

XV. TOTAL THINGS KNOWN ABOUT GERYON

He loved lightning He lived on an island His mother was a
Nymph of a river that ran to the sea His father was a gold
Cutting tool Old scholia say that Stesichorus says that
Geryon had six hands and six feet and wings He was red and
His strange red cattle excited envy Herakles came and
Killed him for his cattle

The dog too

XVI. GERYON'S END

The red world And corresponding red breezes
Went on Geryon did not

PALINODE

No it is not the true story.
No you never went on the benched ships.
No you never came to the towers of Troy.

RED
I. GERYON

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

mf

$\text{♩} = 126$

Ger - yon was a mon - ster ev - ery-thing a -

8

bout him was red Put his snout out of the co - vers in the

15

morn - ing it was red How stiff

22

— the red land - scape where his cat - tle scraped a-gainst Their hob-bles in the

RED - I. GERYON

28

red wind Bur - rowed him - self down in the

35

red dawn jel - ly of Ger - yon's Dream

42

Ger - yon's dream be - gan red then slipped out of the vat

49

and ran Up - sail broke sil - ver

55

shot up through his roots like a pup

61

Se - cret pup

67

At the front end of a - no - ther red day

RED
II. MEANWHILE HE CAME

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

J=108

A - cross the salt knobs it

p

6
was Him Knew a - bout_ the home -

mp

gold Had sight - ed red smoke

8va

15
— a - bove the red spires —

8va

mp *mf*

The musical score for "RED II. MEANWHILE HE CAME" by Eric Shanfield is presented in four systems of music for voice and piano. The vocal part uses a treble clef and includes lyrics such as "A - cross the salt knobs it", "was Him Knew a - bout_ the home -", "gold Had sight - ed red smoke", and "— a - bove the red spires —". The piano part provides harmonic support with various time signatures (2/4, 3/8, 4/4) and dynamics (p, mp, mf). The score is set against a background of changing time signatures and dynamics.

RED

III. GERYON'S PARENTS

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

f =126

If you per - sist in wear - ing your mask at the sup - per ta -

Well Good - night Then they said and drove him

up Those hem - orrag - ing stairs

to the hot dry Arms To the tick - ing

RED - III. GERYON'S PARENTS

22

red taxi of the incubus

p

27 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Don't want to go want to stay

33 *ff*

Down stairs and

ff

38 read Don't want to

43

go want to stay

48

Down stairs and read

RED
IV. GERYON'S DEATH BEGINS

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

J=96

mp

Ger-yon walked the red_____ length of his mind_____ and an-swered No

mp

non *legg.*/meno *legg.*
una corda sempre→

5 It was

l.h.

mur-der_____ And torn_____ to see the cat - tle lay_____

Pno.

9

p sotto voce

All these dar-lings said_____ Ger - yon And now_ me_____

Pno.

RED

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

RED - V. GERYON'S REVERSIBLE DESTINY

22

Be - hind her red right cheek Ger - yon could see

27

Co-il of the hot

plate start - ing to glow

RED
VI. MEANWHILE IN HEAVEN

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

J=76

4 - the - na was look-ing
mp A - the - na was look-ing
Ped. *Ped.* *sim. al fine*

4 down through the floor Of the
(8) glass-bot-tomed boat A - the - na point-ed

8 Zeus looked Him
mp *mf*
(8) [A \sharp] *Ped.*

RED

VII. GERYON'S WEEKEND

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

m = 108

mf

La-ter well la-ter they left the bar

mf

Ped. Ped. sim.

4

went back to the cen-taur's Place the

7

cen-taur had a cup made out of a skull Hold-ing three Mea-sures of wine

10

Hold-ing it he drank Come o-ver here you can

Ped. Ped.

14

Bring your drink if you're a-fraid to come a - lone_

18

p

The cen-taur Pat-ted the so - fa be-side_ him

p

rit.

23

Red-dish yel-low small a - live a - ni-mal

mp

non Ped.

28

mp

mf

rit.

Not a bee moved up Ger-yon's spine on the in - side

mf

8va

non Ped.

RED
VIII. GERYON'S FATHER

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

f

A qui - et root may know.

f

Ped.

5

how to hol - ler

Ped.

8

He liked to Suck words

Ped.

11

Ped.

mf

Here is an al-might-y one

14

he would say Af - ter days of stan - ding

17

in the door - - way

ff

ff

3

20

3 8 4 6 8

3 8 4 6 8

3 8 4 6 8

Ped.

23

NIGHT - BOLL - SNORT - ED

ff

3 8 4 6 8

3 8 4 6 8

Ped.

RED
IX. GERYON'S WAR RECORD

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

J=92

mp

Ger-yon lay on the ground co - ver-ing his ears.

p

sim.

Lento

6

The

10

rit.

p

sound Of the hor - ses like ro - ses be - ing burned a - live

p

RED
X. SCHOOLING

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

J=176

In those days the po - lice were weak

f

Fa - mily was strong Hand in hand the first day Ger-yon's mo-ther took him to—

School She neat - end

his lit-tle red wings and pushed him In through the door

RED
XI. RIGHT

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩}=126$

Musical score for measures 1-3. The score consists of two staves: treble and bass. The treble staff has a dynamic of *f*. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*. The bass staff also includes a performance instruction "non Ped." below it.

4

Are there ma - ny lit - tle boys who think they are a Mon - ster?

Musical score for measure 4. The treble staff starts with a dynamic of *f*. The lyrics "Are there ma - ny lit - tle boys who think they are a Mon - ster?" are written below the staff. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*.

5

Musical score for measures 5-6. The treble staff has a dynamic of *p*. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*.

7

But in my case I am

Musical score for measure 7. The treble staff has a dynamic of *p*. The lyrics "But in my case I am" are written below the staff. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*.

Musical score for measures 8-9. The treble staff has a dynamic of *p*. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*.

10

right said Ger - yon to the Dog

Musical score for measure 10. The treble staff has a dynamic of *p*. The lyrics "right said Ger - yon to the Dog" are written below the staff. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*.

Musical score for measures 11-12. The treble staff has a dynamic of *p*. The bass staff has a dynamic of *p*.

14

they were sit-ting on the bluffs

2ed.

18

ff

2nd x only

2ed.

21

The dog re-gard-ed him Joy ful- ly-

f

24

ff

RED

XII. WINGS

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

mf

Steps off a scraped March sky and sinks Up in - to the

p

mf

blind At - lan - tic morn - ing One small Red

p *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

mp *f*

dog jump - ing a-cross the beach miles be - low

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

mf

Like a freed sha - dow

mf *f*

RED
XIII. HERAKLES' KILLING CLUB

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

p sotto voce

p mezzo voce

p

una corda

p norm.

6

Lit - tle red dog did not see it he felt it All

E - vents car-ry E - vents car-ry but one

RED
XIV. HERAKLES' ARROW

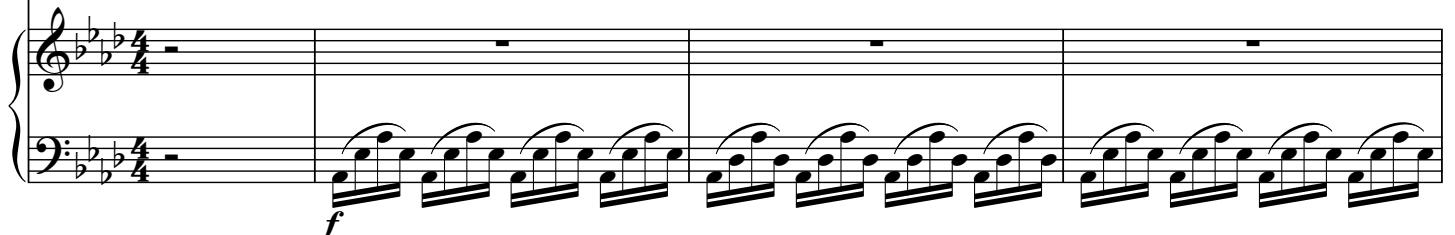
Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩}=144$

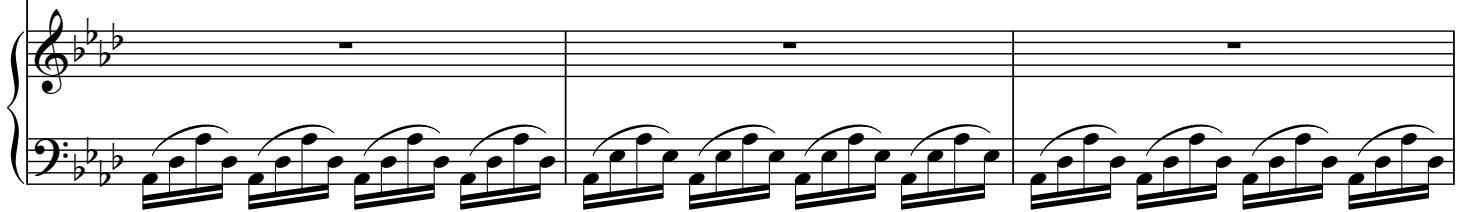


Ar-row means kill It part - ed Ger - yon's skull



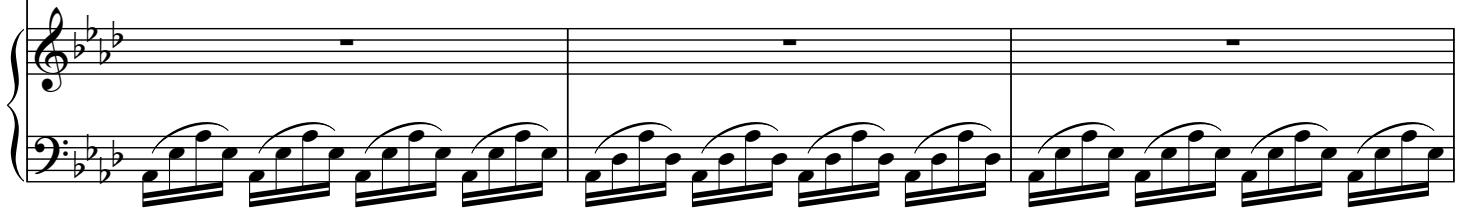
5

like a comb Made



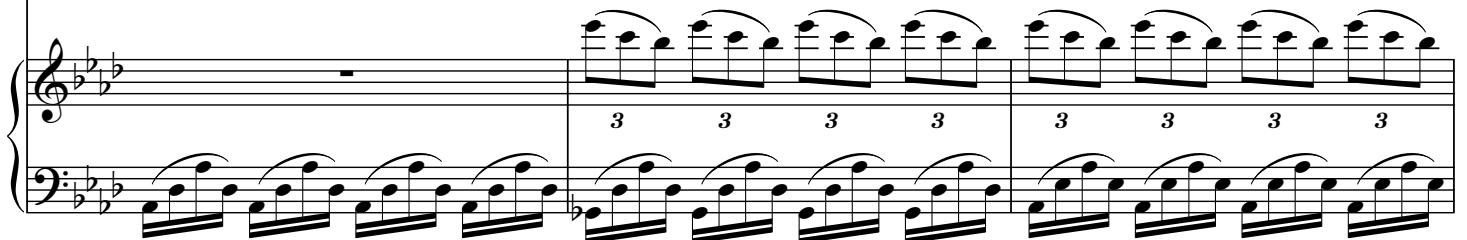
8

The boy neck lean At an odd.



11

slow an - gle



14

side - ways

17

as when a Pop - py shames it - self

20

in a whip of Nude breeze

[Dflat]

23

26

Ar-row means kill

3

RED

XV. TOTAL THINGS KNOWN ABOUT GERYON

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

p

He loved light - ning He lived on an is - land His

mo-ther was a Nymph of a ri - ver that ran to the sea His

Fa-ther was a gold Cut - ting tool Old scho - li - a say -

that Ste - si - cho - rus says that Ger - yon had six hands and

mf

p sub.

Ped.

RED - XV. TOTAL THINGS KNOWN ABOUT GERYON

20

six feet and wings He was red and

mp

29

p sotto voce

killed him for his cattle
The dog too

p sotto voce

RED
XVI. GERYON'S END

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

d=126

mf

The red world

9

And cor-res - pond-ing red bree - zes went on

2nd x

17

Ger - yon did not

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31

mf sub.

attacca senza pausa

RED
XVII. PALINODE

Anne Carson

Eric Shanfield

f
 =126

No it is not the true sto - ry.

ff

5

No you

10 ne - ver went on the benched ships.

fff

15 No you ne - ver came

RED - XVII. PALINODE

20

to the tow-ers of Troy.

25

1.

31

2.

36