

A Mount Tomah Companion

In thirty-six haiku, a triple-helix sequencing of

Family Gondwana (G)

Family Proteaceae (P)

Family Mount Tomah (MT)

by Peter Minter

2017

G.001

Silence holds the seed.

I stand on wet soil, the void
is a flood of light.

P.001

Open, my flower.

I am the colour of your
soul. Remember me?

MT.001

Night, my closest friend

down the burrow, snuggled in
moth wings, dreaming stars.

G.002

Firstly stars collide,
 bloom into heavy metals,
carbon, iron, gold.

P.002

Then the earth split. Oh,
 divided hearts, you take me
to the west, east, north.

MT.002

Common ground, ancient
 earth, this good old soil makes us
stand up and say: *what?*

G.003

Infinite time is

best known locally, right here
you're in the cosmos.

P.003

A leaf is green, hot

bronze, red tipped inflorescent
crown at the centre.

MT.003

A long time ago

I knew a song. Now it's gone,
heart's abandoned glade.

G.004

Sun mother, life fire,
 make a spiral in the heart,
Earth your tiny child.

P.004

Nectaries are sweet
 animal mutualists
say, having a taste.

MT.004

Every flower
 colour-stars the green cosmos.
We cruise like planets.

G.005

Like all things, Earth grows
 from the centre out, swells to
meet the surface, space.

P.005

If I can hold you
 I can hold the whole Earth, our
arms cord into tongues.

MT.005

Words are organic
 photosynthesis in sound,
a trace of graphite.

G.006

From the core, magma
 roils. Our face splits, grinds apart,
yet we remain kin.

P.006

Proteaceae go
 here, there and everywhere,
continents just drift.

MT.006

Over the spiral
 Baïame leaps from Yengo,
hands reach to fire, space.

G.007

Surface membrane, star
light. A tear precipitates
water, air, new love.

P.007

Blood veins want to grow
forever. Your skin holds them,
tumescant flowers.

MT.007

Tadpoles bubble up.
Catch one, see its heart's swift beat,
the belly's soft coil.

G.008

Stone's a hard cradle

 roots grip, delve, split. Flesh is born
in soft multitudes.

P.008

Corona belly

 tender shoots, make me horny
sugarbush, beauty.

MT.008

A butterfly flies

 by, proboscis pollen-full,
ready to relay.

G.009

Under our fur we
are common, from the bones out
DNA repeats.

P.009

Mimesis is good
sanctuary, glad to be
just another one.

MT.009

Wollemi pines grow,
flower through time. Time flowers,
Wollemi pines know!

G.010

A fern unfurls, mist
 falls across a mountain peak.
Red flowers, blood creek.

P.010

Banksia make love
 food, brilliant spurs of orange
sweep out, flood in waves.

MT.010

Under the pines, soft
 shadows, cones, umber needles,
toadstools and humans.

G.011

Almost once around
the galaxy, Gondwana
made it here at last.

P.011

Proteaceae loves
Platanaceae kin loves kin
Nelumbonaceae.

MT.011

White fur, light soft hem
trimmed to the edge of life. Ants
get stuck in the fluff.

G.012

Oceanic drift,
 salt wind and star spiral, we
go on forever.

P.012

There is a flower
 at the centre, then the tree,
all our silent hearts.

MT.012

Mist holds the darkness.
 All I see is you, one step
ahead, a swirl, rain.