

Song Dong & Zhao Xiangyuan | Waste Not

Wu Hung | 物尽其用



ROOM 47

Sunday February 22, 1981. 10:00 a.m. I go into 47. All the beds are unmade: the double bed, the single bed, and the small fold-up bed. The first thing I notice are four pairs of slippers: two pairs for adults, two for children. There is French toast on the table, a balloon hanging from a handle on the chest of drawers. On the right-hand bedside table: a book on legal and fiscal research companies and some Marlboros in the drawer. On the left-hand one: a guide to French hotels and, in the drawer, some Tampax. At night, he wears light cotton green pajamas, and she, a blue flannelette nightie. There's a suitcase on the floor. Inside it I find several plastic bags filled with medications and a book, Venise et ses trésors d'art. On the luggage stand, a second suitcase. It is full. I don't go through it, I just look. I am already bored. In the wardrobe: two pairs of trousers, a manye sweater, a mauve shirt, three pairs of Eminence briefs, red, black, and pale blue. Only the bright-colored slippers cheer up the room. At the foot of the night table, a leather briefcase containing two Swiss passports (they are a married couple living in Geneva; I just note that she is of medium height with dark eyes and brown hair and he of

medium height with blue eyes and brown hair), a sheet of paper with a few typed lines: "Amazing Venice. You dream of it all those years and then one day, you're off to the City of Doges which you think you already know after all you've read and seen and heard. The most striking thing is probably the silence. No sound of cars, motorbikes or anything else. You can hear people talking in the street. There's no dashing around. In fact, that is impossible here: no one can run through these narrow, winding streets, constantly cut off by stairways and bridges. In this city, you either walk or do nothing. It is therefore wise to bring comfortable shoes and a Confortil spray...." Further down, these handicritten words: "Glassware: not bad. Cemetery: fantastic. Gondola ride: worth it."

Monday 23. 9:45 a.m. The bathroom is messier than yesterday. They took a bath. The towels are piled up in the bidet. The cigarette pack is unopened. The book on Venice, taken out of the suitcase, is now set on the bedside table. Next to it, I find four postcards written in French: views of the city. The first is addressed to Mr. and Mrs. D. in Geneva: "Greetings and warm regards. See you soon. The S. family." The second to the G. family in Barcelona: "Everything is very beautiful here. We send you warm regards. See you soon. The S. family." The third to the C. family in Barcelona: "Dear all, Venice is very beautiful. Every corner is a little work of art. Tomorrow, God willing, we go to see the surrounding islands. Hugs. The S. family." Lastly, the fourth one, addressed to the Bs. in Geneva: "Everything is very beautiful here but it would be even more so if we were enjoying it together as a family. See you soon. The S. family." In the wastebasket I find a postcard torn into eight pieces. It is of the same scene as the one addressed to the Bs, and is addressed to these same. Only the text is different. One could read: "Everything is very beautiful here but it would be even more so if we were enjoying it with you. See you soon. The S. family."

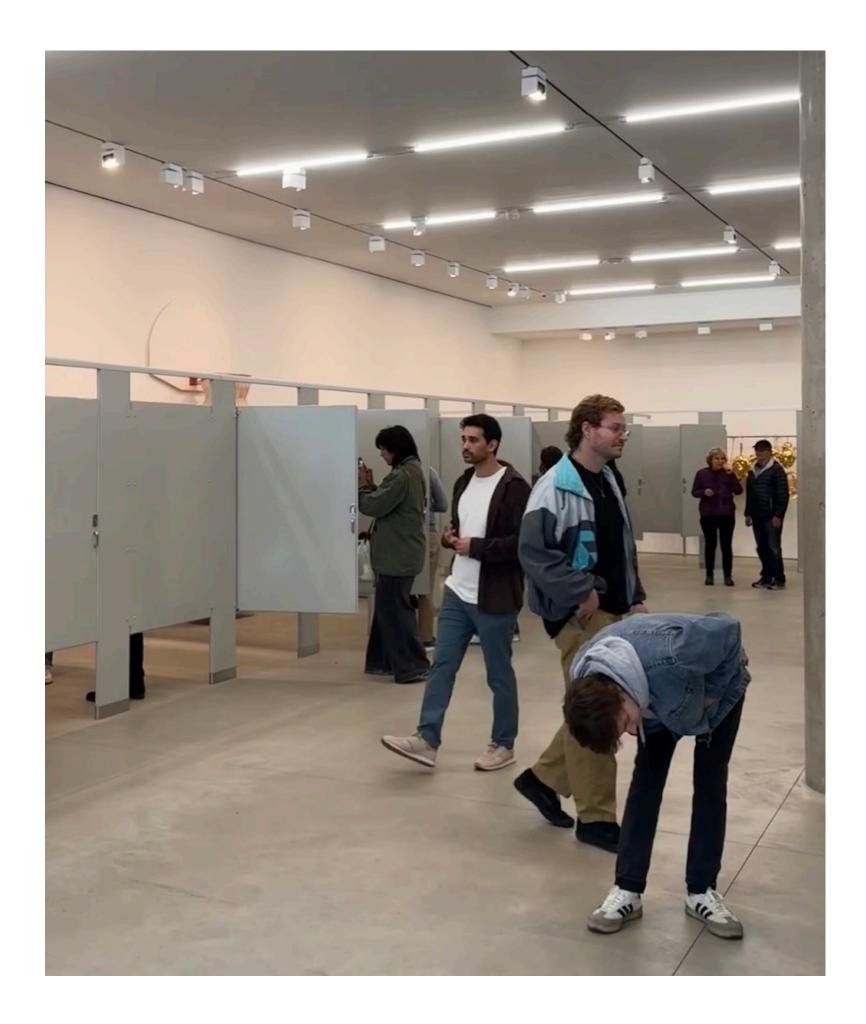
Tuesday 24. 10:30 a.m. They are going to leave. The suitcases are packed. They are set in front of the door. They leave behind the balloon, which is hanging limp, and stale biscuits.

# Sophie Calle | The Hotel, Room 47





Hugh Hayden | Hughmans



## WAITROSE & PARTNERS

Kings Cross 590: 020 7372 5330 www.waitrose.com/kingscross

|             |   | £  |
|-------------|---|--|
| V<br>V<br>V | EVIAN STILL<br>H/SPRING WATER STILL<br>WR XSTRONG SOL TALL<br>WR 30 TH PEDAL BINLI<br>WR NB SIRLOIN STEAK<br>WR NB SIRLOIN STEAK<br>WR NB SIRLOIN STEAK<br>JL FESTIVE DOGS MUG<br>WR SHORT RIBS<br>FAIRY PLAT LEM 51CT<br>NO1 FR TREACLE HAM<br>WR BLUEBERRIES<br>GREEN PAK CHOI P/P<br>WR ESS FT BANANAS | 5.75<br>3.65<br>5.50<br>2.35<br>4.95<br>4.95<br>4.95<br>3.00<br>4.46 |
|             | Reduced item:<br>KD CALIFORNIA ROLL<br>NO.1 WHITE SOURDOUGH<br>WR CAESAR SALAD<br>ALPRO SOYA NS DRINK   | 3.68<br>2.00<br>2.10<br>2.10   |
|             | myWaitrose card<br>*********5502  | asiski<br>Iw   |
|             | your item or relund you   |  |

| 18 items<br>BALANCE DUE | £70.79 |
|-------------------------|--------|
| MasterCard              | £70.79 |
| CHANGE                  | 0.00   |

\*\*\* CARDHOLDER COPY \*\*\*

T;\*\*\*6583 P:W3529241 M:\*\*12073 21/11/2024 18:38:46 

MASTERCARD \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*0633

CONTACTLESS CP SALE

Please debit my account GBP70.79 TOTAL GBP70.79 Contactless

NO CARDHOLDER VERIFICATION

Please Keep This Receipt For your Records Auth Code: 349665 Ref: 0000061200-1 AID: A0000000041010 App Sec. 01 App Seq: 01

Account on File Registration Details Passe and Doy Result: Registration Successful Token ID: 8938196806833322 -----

How was your visit today? Visit waitrosehaveyoursay.com and you could win an e-gift card prize worth £100 - £300 THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT WAITROSE

L 18.39.21/11/2024 590 612 4200 246217

| WAITROSI<br>& PARTNERS   | E                         |
|--|---------------------------|
|  | 5330                      |
| Kings Cross 590: 020 7372 5<br>www.waitrose.com/kingscro   |                           |
| WR ESS RED ONIONS<br>ASPARAGUS P/P   |                           |
| myWaitrose card  |                           |
|  |                           |
| 27 items<br>BALANCE DUE  | £75.56                    |
| MasterCard<br>**********0633   | £75.56                    |
| CHANGE   | 0.00                      |
| *** CARDHOLDER COPY ***  |                           |
| P:\%3529230 T:****6583<br>M:**12073<br>24/12/2024 15:30:40   |                           |
| MASTERCARD<br>***********0633  |                           |
| CONTACTLESS CP SALE  |                           |
| Please debit my account<br>AMOUNT GBP75.56<br>TOTAL GBP75.56   |                           |
| Contactless  |                           |
| NO CARDHOLDER VERIFICATION   |                           |
| Please Keep This Receipt<br>For your Records<br>Auth Code: 940885<br>Ref: 0000061100-1<br>AID: A0000000041010<br>App Seq: 01 |                           |
| Account on File Registration   |                           |
| Details<br>Result: Registration Successful<br>Token ID: 8938196806883322   |                           |
| How was  |                           |
| How was your visit tod<br>Visit waitrosehaveyoursay.co<br>could win an e-gift card<br>worth £100 - £300                      | ay?<br>m and you<br>prize |
| THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT W  | AITROSE                   |

15:30 24/12/2024 590 611 4200 227166

### WAITROSE & PARTNERS

Kings Cross 590: 020 7372 5330 www.waitrose.com/kingscross

|   |                      | £.   |
|---|----------------------|------|
|   | GRAHAMS GOLD TOP     | 1,90 |
| V | OSU A/CIDER VINEGAR  | 5,50 |
|   | WR SHORT RIBS        | 3.53 |
|   | WR SHORT RIBS        | 3,93 |
|   | RANGEFM FR LRGE EGGS | 4.25 |
|   | WR ESS POINTED CABB  | 0,95 |
| V | MED ZIPLOCK FOOD BAG | 2.20 |
|   | WR ESS ICBRG LETTUCE | 0.95 |
|   | WR MONKEY NUTS       | 1.95 |
|   | WR PEA SHOOTS        | 1,50 |
|   | WR EXTRA LGE ORANGES | 2,40 |
|   | NO.1 RED CHOICE TOMS | 2,70 |
|   | WR ROMAINE LET       | 1.40 |
|   | WR STRAWBERRIES      | 2,70 |
|   | WR ESS CUCUMBER      | 0.95 |
|   | WR ROMAINE LET       | 1.40 |
|   | WR PEA SHOOTS        | 1.50 |

myWaitrose card \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*5502

## 17 items BALANCE DUE

Visa Debit \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* £39,71

CHANGE 0.00

£39.71

\*\*\* CARDHOLDER COPY \*\*\*

#### P:W3529210 T:\*\*\*\*6583 M:\*\*12073 19/01/2025 16:05:11

Visa DEBIT \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*9530

CONTACTLESS CP SALE

Please debit my account AMOUNT GBP39.71 TOTAL GBP39.71

CARDHOLDER DEVICE VERIFIED

\_\_\_\_\_ Please Keep This Receipt For your Records Auth Code: 006956 Ref: 0000060200-1 AID: A000000031010 App Seq: 00

Account on File Registration Details Result: Registration Successful Token ID: 9583341902648904

How was your visit today? Visit waitrosehaveyoursay.com and you could win an e-gift card prize worth £100 - £300

> HANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT WAITROSE /01/2025 590 602 4200 199022

| Comp                                       | EAT/<br>opsgate,<br>any Numb<br>AT: GB 20                         | EC2M 3YD L<br>er 08721896 | ondon                 |
|--|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| PANNA COTTA 1                              | IRAMISU' TAKE AWAY<br>ANNA COTTA 125G<br>Pay 1.70 instead of 2.90 | GBP<br>7.00<br>2.90       |                       |
| Compleanno 2                               | 2025 UK   | UK<br>E FORMAGGIO E       | -1.20<br>4.40<br>7.90 |
| Total GBP                                  |   |                           | 21.00                 |
| 15 MasterCard<br>5272********08            | 05  |                           | 21.00                 |
| Vat percent<br>(ZERO) 0.00                 | Net<br>6.10   | Gross<br>6.10             | VAT<br>0.00           |
| ZERO RATE<br>(20G) 20.00<br>Goods          | 12.42   | 14.90                     | 2.48                  |
| 18.01.2025 20:<br>S014 S:1<br>Served you : |   | 11510 Op:11               | 50 C:LOCA             |

# Win £20 off your sho Win £20 off your sho thop singly soon with their next wai toos there you shop to the with with thop singly soon to be waitrose why you shop to be waitrose shotened for you shop to be waitrose sources feil ou ode to sign L e 1. October scan your 11+ store 2024. Pr ELT 1.60 ntr card when any West One £20 hall store. No cash alter al be chosen at random fro an i Partners customers of Waltrose Ltd. only-







A bird settles atop a lamppost It is noon Gust of wind A 63 goes by A 96 goes by An apple-green 2CV goes by The rain gets fierce. A lady makes a hat with a plastic bag marked "Nicolas" Umbrellas sweep into the church

Moments of emptiness

Passage of a 63 bus

Geneviève Serreau passes by in front of the café (too far away for me to get her attention)

Project: a classification of umbrellas according to their forms, their means of functioning, their color, their material...

Some green emerges from a shopping bag

A 96 goes by

Differences stand out: there are fewer buses, there are few or even no trucks or delivery vans, the cars are most often private; more people seem to be entering or leaving Saint-Sulpice.

More differences would be due to the rain, which is not necessarily specific to its being Sunday.

**GEORGES PEREC** 

A dog runs past, tail in the air, sniffing the ground.

Gestures and movements are made difficult by the rain (carrying a cake-box, pulling a wheeled shopping bag, walking while holding a child by the hand).

Passage of a 63

The church square is almost empty. Then three people cross it.

Then three groups of two. Then a solitary man who comes out of the church.

It is still raining, but maybe a little less heavily. A man supporting an old lady crosses the church square

very slowly

An apple-green car (RL?)

A 96 bus

A grayish car whose back right door is blue. It is twelve thirty.

At the corner of the church and rue Saint-Sulpice, a man tools up before unlocking his moped, which he has chained to the bars of some sort of basement window (it's really too large to be a basement window)

Meanwhile, the rain has stopped

The wind dispels the rain that had accumulated on the café awning: waves of water

Pigeons on the plaza. A Volkswagen goes by between the plaza and the church square. The church square is empty

AN ATTEMPT AT EXHAUSTING A PLACE IN PARIS

Georges Perec | An Attempt At Exhausting A Place In Paris

42

43

# AN ATTEMPT AT EXHAUSTING A PLACE IN PARIS

**GEORGES PEREC** 

TRANSLATED BY MARC LOWENTHAL

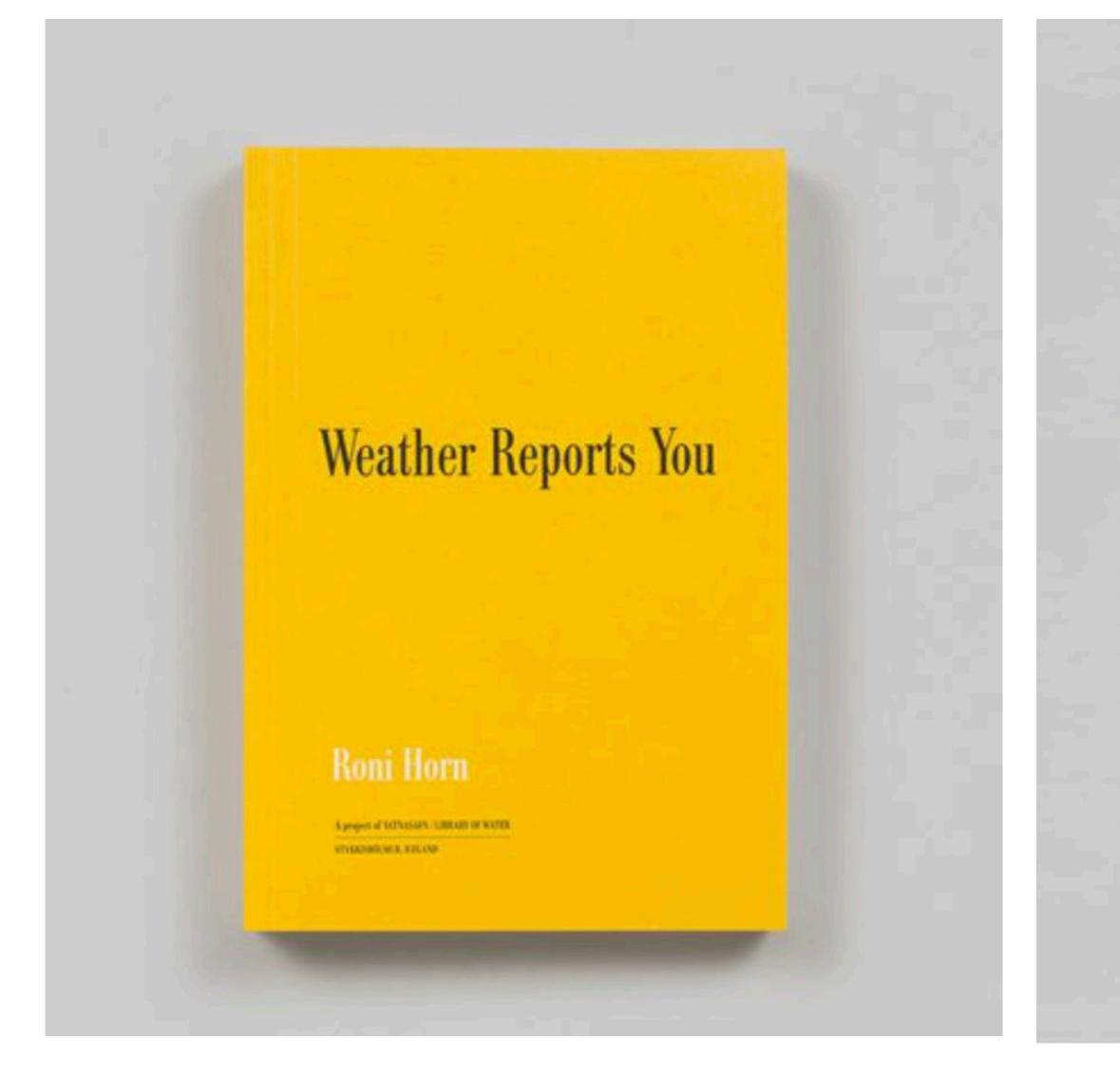
## CONVERSATION PIECE

Bandage any part of your body. If people ask about it, make a story and tell. If people do not ask about it, draw their attention to it and tell. If people forget about it, remind them of it and keep telling. Do not talk about anything else.

1962 summer

Yoko Ono|Grapefruit





Roni Horn | Weather Reports You - A Collective Self-portrait

Naturally you remember the good weather experiences too. There's nothing lovelier than being out at sea in total calm with birds around you and all the quiet. But the weather's changed now. The snowdrifts were bigger when I was small! My pattern for fishing is that I always start in Þorlákshöfn in the spring, March or thereabouts, then I follow the fish up to the north and finish in Skagafjörður, or Siglufjörður the last time I went. It's always moving north, you see. And every spring you hear trawler owners saying they don't remember such bad fishing, though the ships are bigger now. Aren't the low fronts deeper now? Just like what's happening to our friends in the West, in America, isn't it all changing there? The sea's warmer, of course, you really notice that at sea, for instance monkfish was never seen six years ago but is starting to be caught here. New species are coming and there are huge changes in the marine life, the shrimp's gone now. They blame the collapse of the shellfish stocks on rising sea temperatures here in Breiðafjörður. But I'm hoping it will start to build up again, the sea was colder this year than last year so you just hope for the best ... When you think it's all going to hell you read in the papers that it was like that in the old days too, so maybe it just goes in cycles. Maybe how you look at the environment all depends on whether you're an optimist or a pessimist.

<sup>1</sup> "Wind shelter" parish <sup>2</sup> "Bad wind" peak



Sigurður Hjartarson Born 1930, Blönduós Farmer (Staðarbakki)

I never see the sun without starting to tingle and I'm outside at once.

I was at sea for nine years. Once when I was on board the trawler Skúli Magnússon (I think it was the Skúli Magnússon, rather than the Jón Þorláksson), I was out on the Halinn grounds and we ran into strong, nasty weather, hauled in the trawl and headed for land. But it was snowing, there was a raging storm and heavy frost, and that was when I felt in most danger at sea. And then there was the icing, you know. I was so tired of smashing the ice off all the ropes and as soon as I turned around everything was covered again.

In the old days sheep were grazed for the whole winter and then in spring they started to get frisky when the grass started to sprout alongside the brooks in gullies, started to grow.

