

LEIGH HERRICK

Page 13 forward

Who would've thought
things could have ever gotten this far
one line
following the next as steps in the night
follow their path in a particular pattern of sound
each witness may have heard might hear even now
a little differently: a sound with a shuffle or a muff a
click or a tap a hollow sound an echo perhaps whatever it was
remains inexact though the overall effect is still intact:
someone had been walking
perhaps in numbers
maybe alone or:
someone has been running here
perhaps alone
maybe in numbers
the sound itself
working over years
working as the women worked
working all these years
in a world that kills children
in a world the women prepare them for
cooking eggs
roasting
baking cakes
hoping the suffering
still drowning
in their tears
would one day come to an end
would one day free them from their kitchen vows
where they made so many promises out loud:

*We will not be trite about this
they wrote in blood
We will say what has happened here*

2/22/03
after elie wiesel, *night*

Excerpts from NIGHT by Elie Wiesel, translated by Stella Rodway. Copyright ©1960 by MacGibbon & Kee. Copyright renewed ©1988 by The Collins Publishing Group. Reprinted by permission of Hill and Wang, a division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, LLC.