The Counting House

Sandra Ridley

BookThug 2013



Unafraid. She takes her own hair by the fistful. Your Darling. Undoubtedly. Deserving or not. Offers penitence with a punishment.				
This is unacceptable.				
Each privation forbidden to her. By her. Gradually. Affections will become more harmful.				
Vengeful.				
Seething.				
She confuses murmurs with furies.				
Shuns night-company.				
Stupefied.				
You are not capable of being moved.				

II.		
Apologist.		

You seem different.

You want a more decent measured speech. Meeker language.

Your Darling concedes she has always been present. From the beginning. Her entrance was neither deceptive. Nor delicately feigned.

III.

Unabrade	ed.	
	Bitten hands.	
	Your Darling explains the excessive. The	manic.
	Calm as constraint.	
	Each agitation won't cease to affect her. I Convinces you. The inappropriate (of co	sitten hands. Bitten lip. The eventual provoked. urse) reciprocal.
		Your Darling repeats.
Hysteric.	Sickeningly. Always unwilling to please.	
	In such a state. She is not.	
	Your sonorous body. Your nervous type.	
	Offer a sympathy. An indelicate subtlety. In relation to. At the same time. Her con	It's certain that she can't explain her association. finement.
	Responsive to your state of vigilance.	
	Who	celebrates a shrivelling?
Turn you	r back upon the tightening deductive. Ho	w perceptive your closest contradictions.
Uncertaii	nly citing against her absence of extravaga	nce.
	Poise.	Charm.

IV.

Your Darling reveals her strength in proportion to her weakness. Pell-mell. Discriminately personal. Vainly sumptuous.

She returns with uncontrolled moments of joy. Unmeasured. Forgets how quickly and assuredly she once withdrew.

Unvanquished.

A ruse is a ruse and ceaselessly. She gave up. Abandoned heart and vitriol.

Your Darling is vulgar in all of her violet forms.

V.

An aspect of repetition.

Each subsequent act derived from the gentleness of brief pleasure.

Beholden. She meant to. (Didn't mean to without discipline.)

Your Darling insufficiently restricted. Hesitates in proportion. The way you would have her. Diminished. Precisely lacking. Her taint spreads at threatening speed.

In fact. This is constant. Complicit with failure. When your Darling is surrounded by others. By all others. She hears the detailed various. *She said. She did.*

In more recent times. Less legitimately constrained.

Remorse.

In reckoning the intricacies. Your Darling will choose an example. (Taken.)

A burdensome note. Another example given from elsewhere.

There will be no confusion about the admittance.

Her resistance was not exceptional.

Her supplice. After losing restraint.

Exquisite pain.

Colophon

Manufactured as the first edition of *The Counting House* in the Autumn of 2013 by BookThug. Distributed in Canada by the Literary Press Group: www.lpg.ca
Distributed in the United States by Small Press Distribution: www.spdbooks.org
Shop online at www.bookthug.ca



Type + design by Jay MillAr Copy Edited by Ruth Zuchter