

It

G A I A H O L M E S

It made her want to drink the last of the Christmas sherry,
climb over the park railings after midnight
and cry at Adonis's feet.

It made him want to phone in sick
and spend the rest of the day in bed with her
eating treacle sponge and custard, playing chess.

It made them want to go to the next alcoholics anonymous
meeting.

It made him want to go to the woods
with a week's supply of cream crackers, tinned sardines
and his dead grandmother's fat three-stone bible.

It made him want to pull out his tubes,
curse at the nurses
and shuffle to the gardens to smoke a cigarette.

It made them want to adopt.

It made her want to touch his wife's breasts
to see if they were real.

It made them want to drive to the seaside on a rainy day,
park up on the cliff top, eat egg mayonnaise sandwiches,

drink tea from a thermos flask and watch the grey waves
curling and rolling through the steamy windows.

It made him want to apologise.
It made her want to murder.

It made her want to wear Doc Martens
and a chiffon dress the colour of ostrich steak.

It made him want to go to the library
and borrow a book on goat husbandry.

It made her want to paint all the windows with bitumen,
burn all his letters and cry for six weeks.

It made him want to eat fried rice with a pair of tweezers.

It made them want to slow-roast the placenta
in a casserole dish with Bisto, onions and leeks.

It made him want to pour treacle
into the toecaps of all his trainers.

It made him want to teach his Jack Russell how to iron.
It made her want to set fire to her Barbie doll's hair.

It made her want to move to Russia,
gorge on roast turnips and black bread
and become comfortably fat.

It made him want to stroke her clavicles.

It made her want to wear a fake moustache
at the wedding reception.

It made him want to curl up in a fist
at the bottom of her bed.

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It made him want to steal a wedge of Brie
from Sainsbury's deli counter.

It made her want to sell her soul on eBay.

It made her want to try it when her parents were out.

It made him want to think about it for a long time in the bath.

It made them want to forget about it and get on with their
lives.