

Valentina Shulikovskaya
The Love Diptych

1.

Wir müssen beide elend sein.¹

H.Heine.

It's so scaring to realize that your beloved is mean,
Is capable to rob you and to betray,
That he's a lackey, a rogue and a liar.
I'm obliged to become as mean as he.

And we together will find the Gates of Hell.
Your glance is tender, but your soul is black.
My duty is not to abandon you, my holy brother.
You are mean and greedy; precisely so am I.

Everyone won't be able to help hating me.
I'll be lied to; I'll know that I'm lied to.
It's so hurt. Let you be damned! I'm so hurt.
I'm obliged to become as mean as he.

2.

It's so bitter to know that your beloved is stupid;
To play a role he's ignorant of;
With his instincts of a rude male, of a little beast,
He'll understand neither my flesh nor my pain.

It's so simple to deceive his flair [feelings],
To tell lies by striking various beautiful poses.
However, listening to my silence,
He'll never know the salt of invisible tears.

And if I perish without a sound,
He won't understand who is to blame for this,
And he'll never remember about me,
And he'll be sleeping in the arms of another [girl].

¹ We both must be unhappy. Another version: we both must be despicable.