

HUNTING: A STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

I've been sitting here now for quite some time,
just waiting
this spot looked really great
last month
it was a well worn run
there were fresh droppings along it
every morning for at least a week
and tracks,
the place looked like a deer highway.
But not today

And you know something
I'm ready, I mean really really ready
I sure have practiced hard this year
It shows
Those arrows are flying flat and straight
right to the center of the target
No Lie
Yeah, Yeah, I know
Deer don't have targets
Painted on their sides

The wind is blowing just right
carrying my scent down and away from the run
Makes no difference anyway
the deer are gone

They must have headed over
to that abandoned apple orchard
it's just about a third of a mile
down the old logging road

But they should not be there now
they were there mostly evenings
when I scouted that site, last month

No sense in moving yet
Its just too late
to leave my early post
Stay here till late morning
when they settle in for a little siesta
Then I go stake out a new spot

God, Is It Cold out here
So much for all these layers of clothing
Not worth a crap after you've been
sitting totally still for two and a half hours

Wait — what's that!
there's some noise back behind me
in the leaves
Carefully now turn and look

Just those damn little red squirrels
look at them running around like crazy
they make that energizer bunny seem kinda sluggish

Hey what's that movement over there
in that clump of brush and saplings
Yes!!! a good sized doe

Doesn't see me
Not yet at least
Jeez, look at all the brush and branches
an arrow may never make it through the maze

I think I will give it a try anyway
So what if the arrow is lost

Slowly, Slowly, Slowly
bring the bow up to shooting position
Pull the string taut
and aim — aim carefully
for the spot just to the right of its shoulder

Now hold that draw
till the doe moves just a little more
Thank God for cable and pulley bows
It is sooo easy to hold a draw for ages
What with the modern miracle of applied physics

Yes that's it
She's turned to present the side angle
Now very steadily,
nice smooth release
And then
thwang, bang, scrunch
That arrow hit at least three different branches

Up goes the white tail
Off goes the deer
OK so much for that one
Let me try for a cleaner shot
Tomorrow