

MARIAN CHRISTIE

Burning Ships

the ships burn

in Pearl Harbor
beneath a blue December sky
they burn the beginning of war

battleships blaze
at Skagerrak
blasted by torpedoes

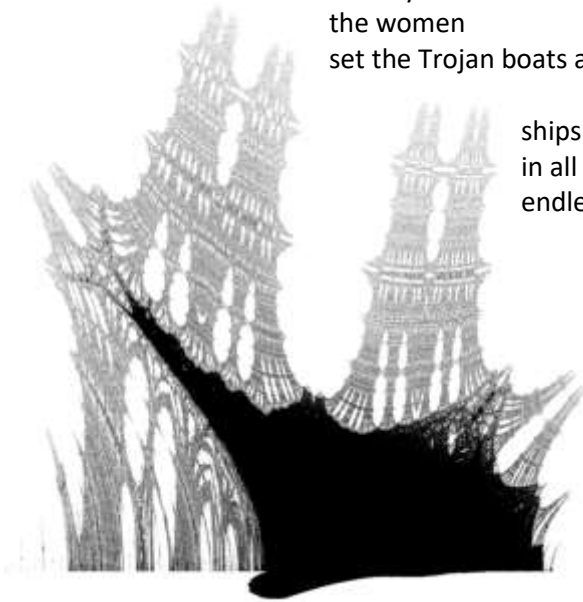
smoke drifts
above the Medway
Royal Oak burns

below the rock
of Jabal Tariq
the way home is torched

in Sicily
the women
set the Trojan boats alight

ships burn
in all our memories
endlessly they burn

the ships burn



The Burning Ship is a fractal generated by iterating, in the complex plane, the function:

$$z_{n+1} = (|\operatorname{Re}(z_n)| + i|\operatorname{Im}(z_n)|)^2 + c, \quad z_0 = 0,$$

“Burning Ships” is from the pamphlet *Fractal Poems* by Marian Christie (Enneract Editions, Penteract Press, 2021).
Image source: Wikipedia.