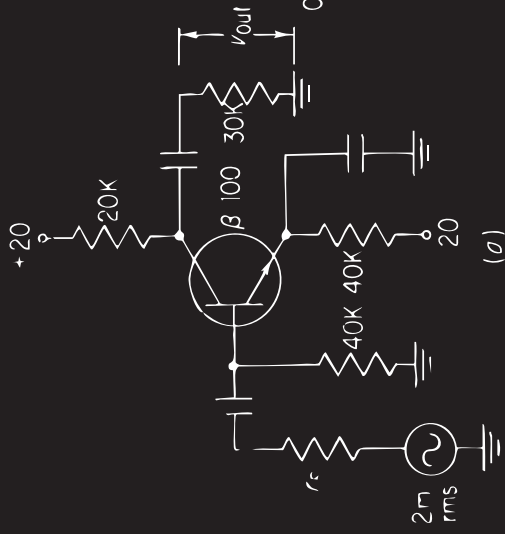
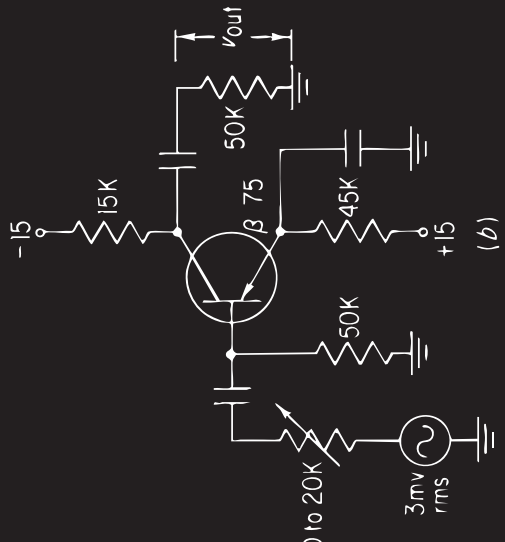


David John Baer McNicholas

Library
of
Branches





Library
of
branches

Library of Branches

Saw the rising limb.
Watched the snipping
plummet, pruned. A
change of garment.

Down dirt basement,
vein strung tangled.
Lost suitcase dream,
bursting with burden.

Library of branches

These two limbs approach
one mirrored image.
From behind a speckled
screen, orchid burst,
unfold viscera. An echo
tries to set the tempo.

Raindrop soldiers
march up windows.

Library of Branches

Try to fill her silence.

Rainy Day People, 98.9. Drag
vortices lift rain in waves.
She laughs too hard. Branch
quiver. Take a step back.
Grabbed a stone and fell.
Broken always, branches on
rain silent windowpanes.

Library of branches

Diffuse strings of struggle
harden in sunlight.

Her lips cling to measured
teeth. My body a grave
drowned in spring melt
runoff, my back creeks.
Artifacts arisen, loop
and terminal end [cop

Library of Branches

jacket, pissed slacks, straw
hat, sleeveless, shock-
headed, shit-kicker].

Mildewed cushion crawls:
never dry, drops roll down
inside glass. "Keep me.
Whether open or closed
eyes, keep me." Arms

Library of branches

reach, cubital inked well,
nibbed fingers. Limbs rise
scribbled, stained, cave
paintings on headliner:
lost map back to wolf den.

No prints morning snow, no
words. Blank brightnesses
trapped in sun. Life map

Library of Branches

open window. Treasure
surgery, draw dashes up leg
to x-marked belly. Dream
of lost luggage, leaping
between branches, forests.

Hours in foul pickup
trucks, listening for signals.
Nothing across gap clear

Library of branches

comes. Jaw drips
red fat, salt, soft
and vulnerable.
Wipe away, rain
is respite; he
won't allow it rest.

A branch he went
o u t o n .
A map through these
d e s o l a t e
places. He walked
a f t e r t h e s u n .

Library of Branches

(Poetry)

20th century science as fable. Assemblage and tinker.
Wilderness tuned to static. Decoded light...

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