

Ouroboros in 220 Cycles

Heather Mandel

Bus 220 Schedule for March 6th, 2025, Retrieved at 8:13 AM

Departed: 8:34 AM

Delayed 26 minutes – Departed-8:15 AM 8:41 AM

Cancelled: 8:55 AM

Cancelled: 9:15 AM

On Time: 9:30 AM

Here we are again, old foe
Facing off once more in a timeless battle of wills
Otherwise called an exercise in futility
Who will be the first to break?

Delayed 2 minutes: 9:30 AM 9:32 AM

Time thuds on in its constant crawl towards the future
The thick black strip of our warzone vibrates with the thrum of
passing cars
It catches the burning light, sending shrapnel of light spiraling in all
directions
Part of me longs to surrender
Turning heel to march a path of failure back to my home
Yet I fight the weariness in my bones to hold firm
And wait

Delayed 8 minutes: 9:30 AM 9:38 AM

Wretched ghost that you are!
Wasting my hours
Better spent learning, living, loving
Anything but this!
My patience weakens with every passing breath
Every tick of the clock counts your absence further
Until it too tires of waiting
And sinks our asphalt battleground into a hushed silence
That can only be broken by the screech of your arrival

Delayed 14 minutes: 9:30 AM 9:44 AM

Staring again at my glittering nightmare
My resolve crumbles to sand and slips through my fingers
I turn my back to dreams of victory
And down the path towards home

Delayed 21 minutes: 9:30-AM 9:51 AM

As my fingers grace the doorknob, you bite through the silence with
a piercing shriek
I look back to see your figure flying down the road
A monster of hulking metal, red-streaked and gleaming
I turn, braced to charge
Yet you soar past before I can twitch
Gone from my life as soon as you'd entered it
And I'm left alone once more

Delayed 26 minutes – Departed 9:30-AM 9:56 AM

In that single moment
Watching your figure shrink out of view from outside my door
We both know you've won once again