

Oxx'aklah

Tom Steen

Maroon and red

Burn the head

Or be the thorn

On lands forlorn

Because the house of handprints has its stone gargoyles turned inwards

This confuses me

I've found the house twice or thrice but I've needed to also stab my stomach with a flagged spear
to do so

And the gargoyles are facing *inwards*

The lawn of the house has no grass, unlike everywhere else

The lawn of the house is made of tiny perfect spheres of dirt. It's fun to walk on. I don't care

There's a weird fountain at the edge of the lawn

It's not too much of an issue but the little gods that twirl about it are too bright to look away
from so unless I'm facing the other way I have to stare directly at it. Then there's no light. No
light, less danger. My eyes still bleed though. I don't mind.

So I go up to the door, walk inside, take off my oxygen mask (customarily), keep my shoes on (to
be safe), wipe the blood from my eyes, then close the door behind me and knock on it
To be safe

The handprints know me so they won't hurt me but I keep a flagged spear near my stomach to be
safe

There's no light in the house but it's not dark. It's more the absence of light of a concept. There
are no shadows or highlights. Everything is just there, flatly, blankly, somehow retaining color
and perception

Then again, my oxygen tank is full of liquid and it warm to the touch so I don't really care

I go in, get what I came for, then leave

I exit, passing on, leaving behind my oxygen mask

When I step outside, my hands are empty of what I came to acquire
But the house is already gone, save for a few bits of dirt my (somehow now bare) feet
So I don't care too much
But I put the flagged spear into my abdomen
To be safe