

# Residency Collaborators / Colaboradorxs

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After the accident when you are swimming in your soul's ocean and feel you are all but two of the yellows you need to be light, you imagine you are a little league of cities. You are a knife that cuts through concrete panels. You are a little click of hope. You are an exhibit. You are an event.

## II.

You go on. You go all in on your nightmares. You get in all versions of you. Play dress up. "My guy, my guy, this place is not for you," is how I learn I'm in the wrong place at the wrong time. "Stay in your lane," says the disembodied voice of this man. But I am just a digital visitor on this talk show, but the warning has been sounded. it's clear

skies on this Sunday evening where only one side of the street gets sunlight. This walk will take me far from my thoughts and it's true. I'm two blocks away before my body starts splitting and I'm aware of my breathing and the sun slicing through half of my body.

# IV.

Remember yesterday?
Remember at the bus station?
Remember waiting? Two families:
one sprawled against a column, three
boys play-fighting with their dad. One boy's
leg thrown over his mom's leg. He is thirteen
maybe, definitely young, virile, unbothered. Then
the second. Two women, three children - two girls,
one boy - tugged around by their brilliant red leashes.

And in this moment,

bending flames become a movement, a pose, a request, a finger of fire that sings and flaps against a shoe.

This enchantment will keep you when no arms are around in the wet rub of an August morning. When hunger scrapes like metal rods riding concrete through a June afternoon. A promise gallops along a brittle trail of stars and is closing in on your location to show

how providence finds you on the thickest nights how the wind blows open an exit through your congealing thoughts.

Now all these words ride in on the new year. Now every year demands prose. Now nothing rhymes but all is muscle kneading over backbones and ribs and shoulder bones that thrust in agreement. You are lost You are here x You are

tumbling through portals

and

doors

Above is a place you aspire to be forever climbing in spirals forever getting closer to stars.

Within is a place you crawl to be - enter - tunnel in spirals through your navel, gaze inward, swim through your own ancient waters.

Below is a place that pulls. That downward spiral is instant. You plummet but never land, and instead find yourself suddenly above, aspiring toward x

Your mouth a portal. Your eyes portals. Your ribs bridges to portals. Someone else's skin wraps you up like a gift and they give you back to yourself.

In your dream a star cuts a chunk of its flesh out and throws it into a cold and dark distance

and you are born to light the way through.

In another dream you are curled in yourself. That self is curled in another self which is curled in another self and you are at the center of hundreds of selves, more secure than you have ever been.

When you feel misplaced like

(the shadow of the sun)

(the shadow of a cloud)

(the shadow of a beam)

you jump on an echo and
ride it into the ears

of everyone who needs to hear
and whisper I am here I am here I am here
three times so you reappear.

When my uncles greet me by saying: You are lost, they mean:

it is your responsibility to be found.

If I am lost then

I have taken myself away from them
I have removed myself from the situation.

When they ask me:
Where have you been?
you have been

lost

I don't understand because I am where I have always been

in my body.

I walk to where the horizon can't reach and shout as loud as sun on skin I am here I am here.

#### VII.

Standing at the corner of Liverpool and Berlin, I can see that this is a place for grownups - serious people who do serious things.

In the matching apartments on the arranged street, lights blink on and off as if to say didn't you hear, this is how adults live. I didn't. My pinky toes hang out of my canvas boots.

We walk these serious streets, we walk right through brick walls, our outlines fade in the street lights. We walk right into arcade games, cotton candy, twirling, oscillating lights on the rides. We walk right into childhood. A pilgrimage to a promise. A pilgrimage to nostalgia. A movement through memory. We walk right.

Only that, at the end, there is darkness, where we pour out into the streets.

It should be like this. A passage.

## VIII.

There once was a building here

once

Twice I crossed its path

twice

I never went in

never

to rub that missing tooth in that angry mouth

It misses all the people that were there

There once were people there

once

So many missed by so many more

All the exit wounds they blew

through hearts turn to nod at each other

in the street

missing recognise missing

There once was a building here

(A series of unexplained disappearances)

They were carried off by a song.

They were snatched in the talons of a scream.

They lost their way in the screech of tires.

They couldn't find their way out of the silence.

They were locked up in a speech.

They were following a melody. I think they still are - trying to place it in a song. The song got ahead of them. We haven't seen them since.

### Meet me:

Where hot water meets cold skin.

In a cascade of warm clouds.

Between the tremors of hands.

Where I put my ear to the ground.

In an exhale, the lights are now out.

In our last conversation, again and again.

In the hook of a dead man's last song.

In a morning hidden from the world.

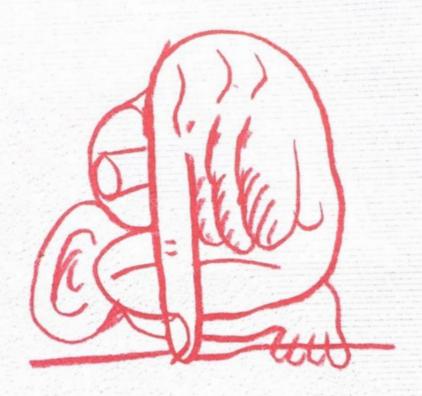
At the corner of an involuntary smile.

At the nearest rooftop, we need perspective.

Right where the beat was dropped.

Right where our memories stopped

and red gave into green and our future was yet to be seen.



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