

I don't want there to be any more buildings that separate us from each other

B u t I w a n t y o u t o
k n o w s o m e t i m e s I w
o n ' t f e e l l i k e t a l
k i n g w i t h y o u o r
a n y o n e

I m a y d i s a p p e a r
T h i s r e c o r d i s p
l a y e d o n c e t h r o
u g h

L i k e o u r l i v e s
W h e n d i d w o l v e s
b e c o m e d o m e s t
i c a t t e d ? W h o w a s
t h e c u n n i n g w h o
w a s t h e b r a v e ?

T h e a i r i s t h i n n e r u
p t h e r e
T o m a k e t h e a i r b r e a t
h e a b l e — w h a t i s t h e r a
t i o ? W h e n d o e s i t t
i p t o s u f f o c a t i o n ?

I c a t c h s o m e o f y o u r w o
r d s — m a k e a b a l m o f t h e
m , e q u a l p a r t s j o j o b a , t e a r s , y o u r
s h a d o w i n t h e a f t e r n o o n , t h e
u n d e r s i d e o f y o u r f o o t — y o u k n o
w t h e y e l l o w w a l l p a p e r l o o k o f
h e e l ?

A n c i e n t t e m p l e s — I s e e t h e s e c h i l
d h o o d h o m e s m a d e o f h a y , p l a y i n g . T
h e r e i s n o s e a m l i n e i n t h e s k
y , b u t I h a v e m a n y . T h e s k y l o
o k s b a c k a t m e , r u n n i n g d o w n m
y b e l l y — t h i c k l i k e l i g h t n i n g — t h
e w o m a n w h o l i v e d . A s c a r o n m y
l e f t h a n d t o o — t h e s e c o n d t y m e I d r
o p p e d a c i d I w a n t e d t o s e e w h a t
w a s u n d e r n e a t h s k i n s o I u s e d a s t
a n l e y k n i f e a n d c u t i t .

Let me disappear, let me be more, less, let
me bury myself in the soft dis-
embodied voice on the record.

But if it works — can we find
vindication in the cause because
of the effect? Invoking the ra-
in with such conviction — every d-
ay and no result — but then o-
n Sunday you rest ... and it rain-
s.

S o m e t i m e s l s e e
b o d i e s f a l l i n
g — m i n u t e d r o p l
e t s o f t h e s e l f
— f a l l i n g t o t h
e g r o u n d , o n e g r
a m b y g r a m , m i l b
y m i l . W e g e t s u c
k e d b a c k u p b y t
h e s u n a n d b e c o d
m e h e a v y c l o u d
s t h a t b e g i n a g
a i n .

I a m P r o s p e r o o n
a n i s l a n d a n d a
t n i g h t i n m y d r
e a m s l a m O b e r o
n . S l e e p l e s s ,
a h o t b a t h , a m a
s k , d a r k n e s s i s
n e v e r a b s o l u t e
e - l i g h t p h o t o
n s r e a c h m e . T h
e b r a i n i s n o t f i
o r t h i n k i n g , i
t i s f o r s u r v i v
i n g . M y b r a i n i s
n o t a c o m p u t e r
 . C o l d b a t h s f o
r l o n g e v i t y , f
o r r e m e d i e s t o
m a d n e s s , f o r l
u x u r y , o n a w h
m , a d a r e .

M

u s i c h t e a r d t h r
 o u i g h t o h e a r w o t m b r
 w i n a n n o h o . u e t i a p l a -
 a n a i n n o s . p t o n n u a i p n , m e
 , f i a n n v e o p c i a s e t n e o m n o s
 , o y m f e e x r a i e s d o , r l i c e .
 y m f e e x r a i e s d o , r l i c e .
 h y t m h c t m a y b e .
 y t m h c t m a y b e .
 m h c t m a y b e .
 h c t m a y b e .
 c t m a y b e .
 t m a y b e .

S

e l l m e t h e m o s t
 o a i t m l a . n l y d i l s h t l
 i o i t v e e . l y h r ' l e c b e p t t
 e e g h e e n d e W h s v a i d y o t h e p s t l
 t t h e e n d e W h s v a i d y o t h e p s t l
 p r l e e s e R a e v r v a o o t h e e r l i r f s i c . h s o o t n u f o d i r k e h
 r n a d s s o c e h o m i t o . u u e
 n t s s o c e h o m i t o . u u e
 t s s o c e h o m i t o . u u e
 s h a e s t o e o c g o o h
 a e s t o e o c g o o h
 e s t o e o c g o o h
 s t o e o c g o o h
 o e o c g o o h
 c o c g o o h
 g o o h
 o o h
 o h
 h

l e a s u r e o r f e a
r ? T h e n y o o r f a n d
e v e r h y b o d y a r k o
u n d h e r w i l l k n
o w w h e t h e r t o w
a v e g o o d b y e o r
t o p r e p a r e f o r
h e r l a n d i n g .

C e r t a i n p i t c h
e s a n d t o n e s c h a
n g e l i n c i t v i b r a
t i o n a l c h a n g e t
s u n d e r n e a t h t
h e s k i n . B e l l s
, l l o v e y o u s , d
o g s s n o r i n g p d
a c e f u l l y — t h e y
s e g r o a n s t h e y
m a k e w h e n t h e y
h e a r y o u m a k i n
g l o v e ,
T h e s q u e a k y c a
l l o f a n e w b o r n
k i t t e n d r a w n t
o w a r m t h , p e o p
l e s t e p p i n g o n
t h i n g s a n d b r e
a k i n g them. So we should break things in front of each

other—it seems less tragic and despairing. There is a god and goddess for every occasion

Preamble

[the cat takes the scent / asks much of birds
whisker to pencil to stripe
mother is a feline saint]

WHAT DOES THE SUN BRING OUT?



light/possibility/hope
ehardness/shifting/rising
gbirds/hunger/flight
tfirst thing you see, first thing you regret

there goes the hits
marching on the fear
oh my dear, there is no snow here
marching on the floor, marching on the mouth
on my dear, our globes are darking here

LET ME BE WEAK



string up still water
inside the station of this
break into a nun
panic run the brakes
don't top, drop everything
built to be held
hear the voices, incant the frozen one
hitting the surface of skin
within this command is a lake

dreams of
flocks of
sheeps of
sleeps of
weaks of
weeks of
deeps of
steppes of

no

one

runs

down

this

hill

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A COWARD



father

the haunted

coward

calling

son

small eyes

propulsion

shake night when it's not cold



trapped between glass doors
trapped under slow clouds
drop my jaw to the ground
reseek percussive doubt

{once i made love to the question}

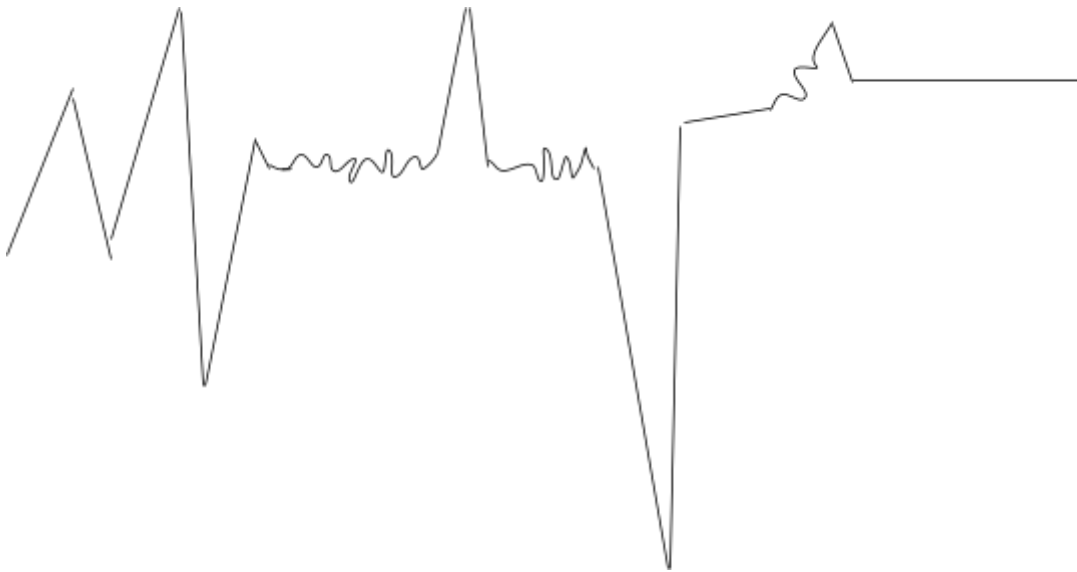
}how to never end a song{

in between the breasts / down within the toes / let this glow

pull a void
from a card
forget talk talk speech
let the dead floral head
blood flood the ears
skin fishing
a fly landing on the hook

{incision here}

}only here{



the heartbeat is not measured
exists outside a surgeon
only solid in a song
mechanics of the constant
discord the spaces of shape
a small kitten pulsing in a hand

there is a farm
 close to a cliff
drawn & quartered
 fields facing a sea
it belongs to longing
 catch the rock that
holds midnight down
 ghost the swallows
spits out absent honey
 like history seeds or need

WELCOME TO THE MEMORY CABIN

o/ver here
over here
over hear
o-ver-here

(now, and later)

look around the corner ⇨
so many homes ↑
so many cars ∩
so many nights ★
dig the numb soundtrack ♭
decorate the whisper ☒
secure in the happy coffin □

now emerge
now draw breath
now birth the murder
now chorus the corpse
now wash the river
now prophet the stone
now blow the soft
now eat the stone

(later, and now)

Footnote: the initial notes for this poem were made as part of a listening party of the Kate Bush album Hounds of Love in Naarm, October 2022.