

Transitional: 4 Perspectives

Jessica L. Wilkinson

For Nell

I.

ear fur chipped eye whisker pink-brown bald patch pressed
foot tender leg hard nose shame scent loose stitch close
cold worn hold quiet safe chest feel body view nub home
shoulder cheek tight tessellation loose stitch red ribbon split
true touch nose give slight favourite I am you and you are

II.

“from one thing to another”

“modulation”

“passage”

grip, from a pitched howl a gift my older sister spreads into reality wrapped in a woollen blanket safe adventure season fires travel over oceans, float
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III.

some special object sitting on the end

of the piano *addicted to such*

a wooden step knuckles *against anxiety*

the pores around my nipples sweat, contract

when deprivation threatens I lose the rabbit

search party turns up an ear, an eye, four legs and a tail

in the pocket at the back of the driver's seat

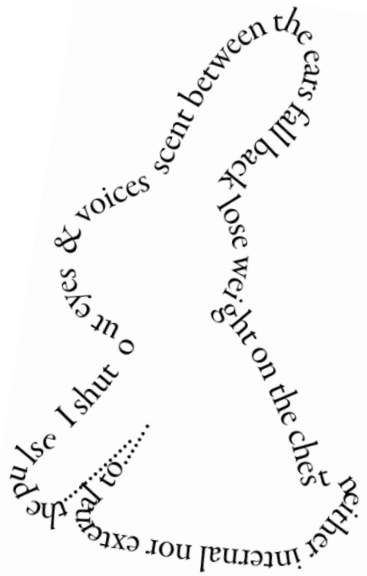
now hanging by the ear from the mouth of a cheeky dog

now pegged by the ear to the clothes' line after a rough cycle

waves and waves of fear I clutch the rabbit's foot *truly* 'not-me'

passage to calm sailing *can be at peace*
and fear again in fire season always rolling a thin string *it is not*
an hallucination waves and waves of subtle disobedience
starvation marriage fails falls the rabbit *may persist*
kept close and never *gradually deattached* onto a high shelf
I am the rabbit who must hold
herself *the substance of illusion*
channelled into *art* or else (*very shy about this*)
the hallmark of madness

IV.



the pulse I shut out eyes & voices scent between the ears fall back lose weight on the chest-
neither internal nor external to.....

Italicised words in part III from D. W. Winnicott's 'Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena: A study of the first not-me possession,' *Psyche* 23.9 (1953): 666-82.