

# **say when you can feel it**

Jacques Verkade | Callan Waldron-Hall

OUTPUT Gallery

## departure

single ribbon of light twisted / won't get you very far  
from home / underwater somewhere not entirely here  
(*& might we choose to stay? we do seem determined*)  
tidally locked / convenient service for those living  
day-to-day in the dark / we must be aware the constant  
low-level hum underneath / the unrestricted provinces  
we might one day see if our eyes are entirely sparkling  
if they find no wrongs in our retinas / landscapes  
detailing

every awful thing (*are we awful? are we just  
witnesses?*)

a sleep stasis to comfort us for the duration of our trip  
& in a moment we will be asked to blink once / & stare  
at the flare before us / deep thrum / inoculation / slight  
pressure once or twice / we try to relax all our muscles  
& we hear our arteries rushing (*are we anything more  
than our most immediate discomforts?*) set for travel  
but before we go we must remember / the sanctions  
& all the turmoil to come / perhaps we may need a map  
if you'll just hold very very still & look straight ahead

**I missed you so much**

it's been about 8 years

maria = mother

it's pretty crazy

I've gotten to the point where I literally can't sleep

her soft whispering voice is really calming

I love your voice it's very soothing

please don't ever delete this

it's crazy for me

the white noise in this is actually nice

I always come back to this

she could literally take over the whole world with her voice

I can't tell you how good that felt

her voice... that's what it is

here I am again

the sound of the shoes!

it doesn't matter how many times I watch

it's a kind of hypnosis

I am so glad she existed back then

it's funny that some people feel the same way

total tingling in my head and a slight dizziness

she says *feather* with a softer ending

I always come back

## **I really hope this works**

(she's still getting the hang of it) the voice  
on the phone

distant but you know it

(you're asked about your senses) are you having any issues?  
she's not going to hurt you  
and there's no wrong answers (so she says and leans in close)

hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss hiss  
hiss

(she's checking your pressure)

this is going to be fun (keep those eyes closed) breathe

(careful and quick the cap is screwed on and liquid below  
slaps against its container)

(she holds up her fingers) and she wants you to say yes  
when you spot her moving  
and then the small disc of amber  
(do you spot when it disappears? do you see the trick?)

she shines a bright light at you (asks you to look straight ahead)

you can blink a couple of times (it's not easy)  
and peers right into you (she says she wants to look at the back  
of your eyes) and to read the letters she points to (it's as if both  
of you are holding your breath)

there is a low sound... is it a cricket?

(she holds your face) and says fight me fight me (don't let her  
move you)

can you smile? with teeth? show her your teeth

(a medical instrument moving towards the soft parts of your face)

close your eyes and say when you can feel it

**little moth**

you couldn't resist

is that true?

undercurrent of something beating  
something trapped

nothing matters right now

look at you

your whole world pulsing as she leans closer  
light lifting itself and tumbling

keep looking

just keep looking

are your eyes wrong? the light is wrong

her eyes are wrong & looking

right through you

fight just a little bit

somewhere far off a bird (what kind?) busies itself

you are doing so good right now

percussive thrum

the rhythm broken

she says

she will deliver you

(what kind of bird was that?)

fingertip reaching out  
becoming honey

becoming dust

## **darling**

1. we're gonna brush... I love the way this feels... a particularly delicate finger-thumb hold... as if painting the ear... something about swirls...
2. let me take out the safety pins... jittering growl of the lid... the tapping sounds... tongues on front teeth... the pins all prone and resting...
3. got this vase... go ahead and admire... focus... focus... two eagles against pink... kind of... the wind hollowing greyed carolina trees...
4. I've actually read some of this book... very interesting... it's kind of falling apart... the pages stiff and barking... each touch earns a flinch...
5. I've always loved the way tape sounds... of being pulled apart... of something flying overhead... something flying too close... too low...
6. get some water... little lives jumping then gone... we're okay... every last drop squeezed... there is still wetness... it takes time to dry...
7. I love matches... the heads of them all atop and across each other... two strikes... bright gasp... listen to the wood writhe... don't burn me...
8. cutting... we're gonna pretend... that we're gonna cut your hair... somewhere the steel slips together... it's felt inside... looking good...
9. bunch of coins... one much louder than the others... eager to leave small pieces of self... non-circle... hits the others... pings and clunks...
10. fake plant I've been keeping... firmly-ridged succulent... growling as if afraid to be brushed... looking straight up... expecting the touch...