

The Space Between

I miss you when you're here
Before you're even gone

Somehow in the noise I hear
the

absence

of your notes

rests and tacets in your

scritch

scritch

scritch

lick

lick

lick

pat

pat

pat

pat

pat

across the floor

I think I'll miss
your inquisitive

brrrrr?

at the door

the most

I'm sorry if it's creepy and weird
(a little desperate and annoying)
to record these sounds now
while I still have the chance

But I Fear—

I fear without the sound of you
I won't remember how to listen
I fear without the weight of you on my feet as I sleep
I won't know how to anchor myself

to the earth

My Darling—
I love you
and it's too much
and it's not enough

To love is to be selfish
and hypocritical
and hope I never forget your sounds
while I pray you won't remember mine

Promise me you won't
Promise me you can't feel
the cruel pit of

absence

Promise me you don't understand
why the plants miss the rain
and the drowning miss the air
and the tired birds miss

the land beneath their feet

Tell Me—
out of all the creatures on the planet
it is only Cats who will never know
What It's Like
To
Miss

Come,
lay by my side
and Lie To Me—
teach me to speak in nonexistent tongues
how to read myths from hollowed-out pages
how to spin tales and fabricate

you

into existence

so that when the time comes I may find it
a little easier

to finally

lie

alone

Against black skies with moonlit streaks I'll brush
the

absence

of your fur

Through lonely meals I'll listen for
the

absence

of your chewing

At hard day's end I'll return
the

absence

of your greeting

And in my heavy heart I'll hold
the

absence

of your weight

against

me

One time I Cried—
so violently I thought I might never breathe again—
and you came to me
padding along the bed as I sat crumpled on the floor
and licked my head

Forgive Me—
I don't know who will lick yours

So promise me you won't cry

Promise Me—

that tears

and heavy hearts

and hard days

and lonely meals

and remembering

and feeling and

missing

are only just

For Me

My Love—
I'll miss you in the space
And find you again in the space

without

between