

if you must know

mouth winking gaping night sky in broad daylight smiling remembering orange like fingers
crossed a hug a mile a minute
longer calling
a language i don't know the words to spil
ling like the laugh i found mid sentence im afraid
all my favorite words are the ones only your spirit knows
while everyone else frames you for mispronunciation
told me i didn't know a damn thing about musicianship
your face scrunched up nicotine bil
lowing like the note i wear as a life vest hands searching
for the stillness mmmm how is it you ask
at the start of forming
an opinion feel the rain
from a distance waist down
existence both arms raised laughing can't tell when i love you but the crows
note the difference and do people look funny when they stare at
nobody's business

here,

let me to show you around

this is what it sounds like when people dream

silence and sirens

turning corners. wind

slipping empty hands into

pockets or clasping handheld ones into

the gentlest tug of war. an improvised musical

with earth as witness. forgotten promises made manifest.

wind caressing faces and picking noses with the hair on our heads. laughter

that makes its way to you across a parking lot like a kiss

hello. like water being tossed at you

by someone who tells jokes for a living.

people waking up to pee. earth rolling around

like a tongue in the middle of a life sentence.

fate like a spider web.

destiny's.

you.

the song that builds in your lungs and the one that plays when you remember to exhale. silence

like hurricanes. like knowing. a laugh that arises from so deep within you

that you become it.

those on the road right now. seems they can only make sense

of certain things at night. some things they wonder aloud

and some they keep to themselves.

if only they could see their face.

questions are some of the most beautiful moments to experience. especially when there's

nothing to say and i can just sit with it a little longer. sometimes

the memories come. now i just let them.

even if it feels painful and confusing. it's quick

like life is. then back to dying

blue dye when i go missing

burnt orange when i breathe

different colors for surprise birthdays.

can i tell you a secret?

a mouth making noise

don't keep it

like riding a bus with strangers

who are important in unknown ways.

do you know how beautiful you are.

this is my stop.

anytime i say thank you know that i always meant to.

funny how

i remember the first letter that saved my life
not the aaaa from this alphabet
it was one i wrote and mistakenly addressed to the woman that bore me
but to this day am the only person to have read it
what about living do i know from memory?
i go on to pick the pen, sword, toothpick, dice, finger, place and time
close my eyes
feel the wetness
of my head crowning
every time i pick up the kids from school
i find language
i find out what i was
i find out the lands i come from
where they lost me
where they have gone missing
how the dead know my reason for being here
the crow ready to collect laughter
why the living know little of what their blood carries
why every smile breaks my heart
if i weren't water then why do i evaporate
like a love with no word for it
a fool to rush with a time signature
i found out what could never be impressed upon me
i found out..
i lose count
the musicality of it all
hands shaking
why i had to write you
when you forget your wings
i find mine just in time
you unknowingly show me the words
and they make their way back to you

(gratitude means to know)

what do you call this part of the silence / song
do you wonder when you will laugh next or do you like surprises
i was going to call and ask you
something unheard of
don't ask me what
it's not my secret to share
i see
with you i don't have to hide behind words
your smile alone
takes on a million miles, easy
most impressive one, two step
what are you
if you don't mind me asking

splendor

fear's place in eternity?
the needle tracing the grooves in your thumb
where you crack of dawn or break
into song
you would go onto be you
you were always going to become your best
the one who recognizes and laughs
the lines that cannot separate
you from yourself
all eyes
open sky
sun inside you

i laugh because you are wise
i laugh because you sing
i laugh because you are figuring it out
i laugh because you are crying

i also cry when you are doing all these things

i am mostly silent on the surface
i am listening