

MAKING TIME

The road
is unforgiving
we will not make it in time
they keep telling me to breathe
I don't want to breath
they
some things are automatic
the machine
does its work
tomorrow
there has to be a tomorrow
that will undo the work of all these todays
undo
who is listening
we are
watching over you
but we really can't hear a thing
you could just
stop
what you are doing
I can't even get a word in edgewise

you are good
there are loads of treasure that we need to hide
where do we start
with a hiding place
hiding my hands
and the other part of the body

lucid insanity
walking through a reality
that has the glimmer of a dream
hide myself
hide what needs to be hid
you have shown too much already
shown too much of me
don't mock me
I have had to break down and recompose

I'll invite all my friends over at once
and together they'll tell me what I need to know
decompose
water me

water the plants
and feed the cats
I am going to have to break down
and show more emotion
move that part of myself that I share with everyone else
I just need
ONE PERSON
to say
I can help
I really do love you
outside my door
somewhere
there is life
you are the life
I can't stop you from being the life
of the party
I can't stop the party
but can you stop yourself
how do you cover up something like that
this wasn't the first time that the skeletons were buried
the moths were chased away
something is happening here
that none of us wants to admit
what if I told you that you will never
never
see your loved ones again
would that get you to change your story
tell the truth
how are you going to make this happen
there are laws
no one is above
accountability
what that means to you
may not be the same as it does to me
I could get a lawyer
be a lawyer
I could hide
be a fugitive from justice
have you ever seen me run on an open field
I don't think that you could ever catch me
all I have to do is dive
to bring you down
a high dive
you probably have seen that kind of thing
when the diver

misses the water
but catches the culprit
she looks in the mirror
I could squash you
this is not a game
or a form of etiquette
this is the gravest of insults
for what it is
what it is becoming
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO COUGH UP
let me know that you can be more exciting
when are you going to become more becoming
for the time being
I am letting the words do the work
trying to get there
first
go through all of them
and then at the end
have to start at the beginning
and change all the names
you know how that is
deciding who can sit next to whom
and pretty soon
everyone has to get out
and the rest
other than everyone
have to find somewhere else
to be somewhere else
we are only heading a little ways from home
in the same neighborhood
but in a different place
different enough to be recognized as somewhere else
but in a very slow world
no one would notice the difference
this is how the words keep time
with a gentle tapping
I hope that you are home
tonight
I need you to be home
let me cruise on by
I hope that I didn't arrive too late
I am only trying to keep time
to find which medicines really work
for the kind of cold
that I am enduring

have you tried this one
I have tried them all
except the one that I call the fatal remedy
a bit of a fatality myself
I know that if it will not kill me
it will make me better
I am followed doctors around the world
have gotten them to give me the most exotic remedies
still I don't feel myself
you can break portions off when you need them
until you have had all that you can chew
and then you can spit out
what you
don't need
almost getting
better that way
I thought
that we were among friends
for all that friends mean
and I know that can be a very difficult concept
you are leaving
take what you need to take
take it all
if I can't finish it now
I never will
no one will
take the time
make of it what you will
fill all the boxes that you need
this is a life that you will never really understand in itself
but you will
understand
and when we all catch up
when we are all on the same page
then I can tell all of you
CLEARLY
it is time to turn the page
the only thing that I don't like
is the noise that will all make at once
like a giant clock clicking the hour
something that you cannot avoid
for that reason
I am avoiding saying anything
keeping it all to myself
for all that means

this sound like a place that we both could live together
if only one of us could afford to pay
pay with time
pay with our work
pay with our live
first there is all the cleaning to be done
I can feel my life dissolving before my eyes
someone
has to be
THERE
who can make a difference
like a host
or an in-charge ghost
or a ghost waiting to get charged
is any of this getting you thinking
where could such a place be
big enough to fit all our dreams
big enough
that none of our dreams would get in the way of each other
that is a tall order
or should I say
a wide order
to stretch out without touching
do you know what that means
or will mean
where my loyalties lie
don't look at what is happening around us
around any of us
I feel shaken right now
and I am trying to pull it together
sort of inside out
I am not looking for forgiveness
nor am I looking to forgive
I can't say the same for everyone
is's a surprise
a nice gesture
call it a gift if you will
like a gift of time
but something more substantial
how can I stay on track this time
I am just getting off myself
I know that there is somewhere that I can sleep
and somewhere that I can just hang out
we could get together
one of us could pay

and the other could pay with his life
or her life
whichever way it goes
two wrongs do not make a right
or a stitch in time
but we each have our own way
a way to embroider it all
things that you could do with thread
I could help you all live better
for whatever that means
I hope that you have got home safely
and that you re now ready to begin in earnest
the work that has to get done
I am back to doing tricks on the street corner
threading words together
shaking the spirit out of ths sounds
RA RA RA
is that all it takes to breathe a little life into these tired old things
at one point that will not be enough
always shaking past shaking
until the shaking past
is uncontrollable
this is supposed to mean something
and this rattle you are meant to ignore
you know about the rattle
the rattle and shake
I am not doing this on my own
I am being taken over
or to put it our way
my words are being taken over
can you hear them sizzle
the sound is getting closer
and it echoes
and it increases
and it barrels
and it blows and it
bellow
and it ROARS
for a time this meant something
you became naked in the sound
went back to your roots
created a primitive myth
now it is all noise
the noise of trying to forget
making do with time

so that you don't have to make do with other time
and you still suspect that someone is calling your name
but they are not
they are not
in that really dark night
that you are afraid to face
the night without voices
I told you
that it is not safe to go in all these rooms
I need to have the construction people over here
and they can get rid of what has to go
then you can explore at your hearts content
I was trying to do the best for everyone
I can feel all the fluid
draining out of me
just drip drip drip
a leaky faucet
literally
the noise is driving me up the wall
making it impossible to sleep
let's just say that SLEEP
is not advisable under these conditions
I have seen you
everywhere
loved you nowhere
needed you somewhere
and then you were
GONE again
I don't mean
elsewhere
just far away from yourself
how do you do it
like you do
have a way of appearing
I don't know how I am going to finish it all
there is a part that I need to fill in
and the fill in can't get done
for the rest of what I have to do
to get it done
does that make sense
it does for me
if I am the last to come in
I will close the door
I will close all the doors
lock them

and turn out all the lights
close the light
turn the light off
I don't want you to go
I just want you to learn how to blend in the darkness
not just the magic of words
but how words tell us things
show us places that we have never seen
not like picture in books
or books on the shelf
or picture in our head
something
somewhere way different than that
I wish that all of you
were still along with me
following along
with your score
dum dum dum dum dum
dee
that last note
the deliberate slowing of time
do you think that you can do anything about time
can you make it slow down in the same way
when I hear a ring at the door
I will know that the final guest is here
THE FINAL GUEST
the one who is ready to read
actual words
not just sounds
the gagging reflex
you all are making me sick
where do I stop
where do I start
where do I get the momentum
to throw you all out the window
GHOSTS, BE GONE
except for the failed one
the pseudo-ghost
the one ready to spend it all
just to hear the creaking of the floors
I can let that one
pay me
to create fairy tales
to let the lights bounce off the walls
I am making things happen with my words

far more scintillating than you can do with your spell
so when my spells start
they will be far more
GHOSTLY
do you grasp my drift
is the language helping you get to where you want to go
when the last one is out
turn off all the lights
but who is to know
if he is the last
she may be the last she
but will she know
does she know
do you know that you are the last to leave
you might look around and see them all
some leaning against the walls
but
at one point
they will all skedaddle out of there
but there may be stragglers
ones that you don't notice hiding in the darkness
for them there is hope
for them there is hope
for them
there is
there are others
there is time to correct ourselves
making time to correct where this is going
getting in the house
with the hope of getting out
but then becoming one of the hosts
haunting the walls
do you know
do you grasp
I did my training in the dark
I did my best work in the light
but now I have learned that is time to venture in the darkness again
can you really appreciate where all of this is going
where any of this is going
when we can catch up
I was all caught up
and then
and then
then
I just stopped myself

got stopped in my path
is there someone that I can see
someone who can sit down with me
can I talk with someone
tell the tale
spread the tales
I am spreading tales
of what is going to happen
of what has to happen
so what does happen
can happen as it will
AS IT WILL
this is the time for the minor ghost
after time will allow a ghost
more superior in form
more formidable in texture
more weighty in meaning
we have all been through this
all been haunted
then we have said enough
you have tried to haunt these halls
to shake these walls
to speak your own language
when you had language
what is beating you down
chasing you out of here
in the envelope you will find
money
you don't think that you are better than any of us
all of us are the same
we all are trying the same way
the little ghosts
and the big ghosts
those who are just visiting
and those who intend to stay all this time
skipping rope
buying food for all of us
and then
it will stop
I can give you words
make my words move on the page
give them speed
SWIFT WORDS
words in time
my music

are you listening to the beat
catching time
running ahead of time
is he writing in my stead
we are all writing
all looking
all here
in me
and out of me
I AM HAUNTED
haunted by your smile
who else is here to say that
to repeat it all
what are you giving back
for any of this
how are you paying
or
getting paid
that is not
enough
enough