

## YOU TELL ME

I waited outside the house in my car. I was not staking out the place, nor was I stalking anyone. Life goes on in there. But nothing is going on in there.”

“All the action happens on the street.”

“Now, you are back.”

“They will never know in there. You can see everything through the window. All the heat and the electricity, but they are frozen in their lives. Try as I might, I cannot revive them. They are all frozen in the moment.”

“Is that an official license?”

“A license for sin.”

“Nothing is right, and nothing is wrong.”

“You are never getting in here.”

“I think that they are going to call police.”

“They are afraid of us.”

“We are about to be gone.”

“There is nothing for us here.”

“Look in those windows.”

”I need to sleep.”

“What else is going on in there?”

“I can pay in cash.”

“Can you do anything else?”

“I am telling you this just to get rid of you.”

“I cannot take that much sadness.”

“Are we long for the life?”

“It ended too quickly.”

“I cannot even pretend that I am involved.”

“You are watching the world from the safety of your car.”

“This is my home.”

“We could reconsider.”

“This is a way of doing things.”

“Are you back?”

“I am just trying to live my life.”

There was this pallor of life that reflected off of the walls.

“I am too used to giving my life to someone else.”

“Life is not supposed to hurt.”

“Take this.”

“I am so far separate from any of that shit. I see all the lights turn off in the house. What is happening in there.”

Everything turned off at once. I felt this massive chill pass over me. They were all dead.

“Is anyone in there?”

“I will finish that story for you.”

“There is too much giving and not enough taking.”

“What is actually going on in there?”  
“Can you surprise me?”  
“It is only a surprise.”  
“What is going on in there?”  
“I can organize this for you.”  
“Why would you spend so much for a whole lot of nothing.”  
“I was experiencing this all at once.”  
“That will work for me.”  
“You were not prepared.”  
“You are back in this.”  
“I did not lose what I did not have.”  
“What is in the trunk?”  
“These are things that you really desire.”  
“What else is left?”  
“You got out without naming a choice.”  
“The world cannot escape.”  
“I cannot explain this.”  
“There was supposed to be more money in this.”  
“They will not yield.”  
“These people have planned everything.”  
“I feel more responsible.”  
“You cannot bring the world back to life.”  
“You are going to have to move your car.”  
“The police are all on my ass.”  
“You didn’t do anything wrong.”  
“I ate in public.”  
“What else is happening?”  
“You had one chance.”  
“I was trying to do it time and time again.”  
“When did this start?”  
“Do not believe anything that he says.”  
“You want someone who is more adept at this.”  
“And that is what I need to deal with.”  
“Save me.”  
“What else is left?”  
“You do not have to worry about this kind of thing.”  
“Wait for the car. Someone will be here for you.”  
“That will more than work.”  
“What are you running away from?”  
“There is no metaphor to describe the shit that is happening here.”  
“I am going to have to follow you out.”  
“IS SOMEONE OUT THERE?”  
“You tell me. How much did you pay for this shitty place?”

“I did not see what I was looking for.”  
 “You lifted me out of the water.”  
 “And we are back to the same place.”  
 “We are preparing for some future thing.”  
 All life slowed to a total halt. How could anything work or move or mean anything?  
 “Do you see that strange reflection off the wall?”  
 “What does that mean?”  
 “Life that is coming to an end.”  
 “They will be there in the morning.”  
 “It is not what it seems to be.”  
 “They really things under control.”  
 “That dog is coming up to my car.”  
 “What does the dog want?”  
 “I want something more in my memory than just that.”  
 “Different flavors.”  
 “Something more substantial.”  
 “This is the worst song in creation.”  
 “You are almost asleep. There is nothing else going on there.”  
 “There bodies will not give them anything more substantial.”  
 “I am back doing this.”  
 “Knock on the door.”  
 “I will check back.”  
 “Does that work for you?”  
 “I want more than that.”  
 “Knock on the door.”  
 “What is going on in there?”  
 “Love and sunshine.”  
 “The darkness of the human soul.”  
 “The brick is solid.”  
 “Everything has been taken from you.”  
 “And you are back to the way that you have always been.”  
 “Should I remember that shit?”  
 “Where is this headed?”  
 “Nowhere. There is that moment when there is nothing anymore. The solidity of the house msquerades as if there is something else.”  
 “That is the only thing that you really want.”  
 “Who did that fof you?”  
 “You need some kind of foundation. Otherwise, it looks all chalky.”  
 “I am going to get you back for this shit.”  
 “That is what they are really afraid of.”  
 “I was telling you.”  
 “There is nothing to tell.”  
 “Tell me true.”

“There is no truth to go along with this.”

“I cannot see it from the outside.”

“This is the one thing that you cannot fake.”

What was going on in those places? They have spent so much to be safe from the night. Is there ever any protection from the darkness? I saw too much. I was part of this moment. Where was it taking me? When the sun slammed the door on my life, what was left for me in the shadows? There was no kind of guidance ready for me. It was all silence. I fumbled with the the rewards that were available to me.

“How can this be your version of happiness?”

“I do not want to think about this anymore.”

“I do not live in one of these places.”

“You do not want to know. You do not want to change. You like things as they are.”

“I cannot explain.”

“That is supposed to be some kind of reward.”

“You work a long time.”

“Why did you knock on my door?”

“I wanted to take a look at the place.”

“That is some freaky kind of shit.”

“What are you doing here?”

“I could be at work.”

“I don’t want to waste my money.”

“I saved for the boots and the jacket.”

“That is not going to be enough.”

“Who is listening?”

I could feel the radiation coming from the building.

“Why does he seem as if he knows?”

“He truly knows.”

“The pain has ended.”

“You have so much energy.”

“Not after work.”

“That is going to be good for me.”

“Are there alternatives?”

“You tell me.”

“That is a lot to think about?”

“Can we give gifts?”

“What do you notice?”

“This will end quickly.”

“That is total being.”

“We have one rule.”

“And that rule has been violated.”

“How? By whom?”

“I want to join in.”

“There is no sharing.”

“Share with me.”  
 “I cannot even bother right now.”  
 “Let us just say that it worked.”  
 “And now it does not.”  
 “What do you know?”  
 “I am dealing with something else.”  
 “We are ready to go.”  
 “Go.”

I saw them getting ready for bed. The did not see me.

“I know that you are in here.”  
 “You don’t see me. Are you blind?”  
 “This had never happened to you before.”  
 Time took on an identity all its own.  
 “This could be dangerous.”  
 “This is how we play.”  
 “I am not going to like what follows.”  
 I needed one reminder.  
 “That was more than enough.”  
 “We could blame you.”

The meditative state was a continuous apprehension. This was a discontinuous arrangement.

“I read all the notes.”  
 “No one will do that anymore.”  
 “What was missed?”  
 “The important things.”  
 “Why did you make this choice?”  
 “I am not doing what is needed.”  
 “Who is?”  
 “Where did that come from?”  
 “I was feeling down.”  
 “You made things worse.”  
 “I suddenly realized that.”  
 “What are the words?”  
 “What is in there?”  
 “I prepared for this.”  
 “And no one is on board.”  
 “I failed.”  
 “How can that possibly be?”  
 “He has one role in mind.”  
 “Stay with me.”  
 “That is not going to go anywhere.”  
 “So weak.”  
 “I was in your house.”

“You are not invited.”  
“There are no other options.”  
“Look to the door.”  
“She will reappear.”  
“Thank you for your input.”  
“You want to be loved. You want to be coddled.”  
“I am hanging on.”  
“It is always the same pattern.”  
“The imprint of the day.”  
“Visit the house.”  
“I gave you a warning.”  
“And this can be so simple.”  
“I am having trouble doing this effectively.”  
“The fun is coming.”  
“This is not about choices. You should not be here.”  
“Are we going to turn this into a challenge?”  
“I know where I should and should not be.”  
“We are taking care of this.”  
“What about his friends?”  
“I don’t know anyone here.”  
“We are your livelihood. You ask us to go, and there is not money for you.”  
“You need to clean up?”  
“Who else is left?”  
“He is still bothering me.”  
“You could hang on and finish this.”  
“I do not care.”  
“And you want blood.”  
“That is not solid.”  
“The vessels.”  
“We can do this nicely.”  
I wanted to be a part of that life.  
“Do you have the keys?”  
“We can wait a few more minutes.”  
“Push it to the next level.”  
“I need more commentary.”  
“These two know nothing.”  
“He could get another costume.”  
“Who is filming?”  
“This once held everything in place?”  
“Join in.”  
“You are valuable addition.”  
“I will need to quit soon.”  
“There are other options.”

“They may not work.”  
“I know what I am having.”  
“This is only the beginning.”  
“Do not even think about it?”  
“You will not feel a thing.”  
“I was in this house before.”  
“Are you doing real estate.”  
“I just disappeared.”  
“And you find your way back.”  
“I thought that this was important.”  
“It was.”  
“It was all that was important.”  
“I shut it all down.”  
They did not have curtains.  
“That was not going to help me.”  
“That is one of the two options.”  
“I could keep this going.”  
“I do not even care.”  
“Time to go back.”  
“LEAVE NOW.”  
“Where are we going?”  
“Some kind of fire drill.”  
“Is this bad stuff for good people, or good stuff from bad people?”  
“Who else is here?”  
“Get the list.”  
“You are on the list.”  
“Just give me some options.”  
“What have I been dealing with.”  
“These are the interest payments.”  
“What are the assets?”  
“I need cash to cover these debts.”  
“Make more promises.”  
“Get out while you can.”  
“Shut it down.”  
The house was empty.  
“We could plant a garden.”  
“What is a cash crop.”  
“The miracle grain.”  
“What else is there?”  
“What is in the basket?”  
“Ask the wolf.”  
“There is nothing pretty here.”  
“The wolf was going to eat me.”

“That is a different story.”  
 “I didn’t know what that was about.”  
 “Now, he has his choice.”  
 “I want you for my art.”  
 “I only need one person to believe.”  
 “I could shut my door on this place.”  
 “This is just a building.”  
 “What are these places about?”  
 “What are you about?”  
 “You can leave now.”  
 “I never thought it would come to this.”

We needed to go through all this shit before we could attain an adequate description who we were.

“Love me.”  
 “I do not even have a place.”  
 “You got trapped.”  
 “I am totally trapped.”  
 “I am losing my direction.”  
 “How did you hang on?”  
 “Give me what I deserve!”  
 “That is all that I get.”  
 “I am so behind the times.”  
 “I get this guy wandering around my house.”  
 “Did you see him?”  
 “He was no camera.”  
 “You could pretend.”  
 “I was beyond pretending.”  
 “Only one mistake.”  
 “Start the machine.”  
 “That worked.”  
 “Make this more pleasing.”  
 “I got everything that I wanted.”  
 “Then I lost.”  
 “And that works.”  
 “It shouldn’t.”  
 “That is a big waste of time.”  
 “Why are you here?”  
 “Who else should be here?”  
 “It all seemed important.”  
 “It was.”  
 “Shit.”  
 “I am here for you,”  
 “I did not even live in the house. They were sending mail.”



“Who is your assistant?”  
“What is going on in there?”  
“I got fixed up.”  
“Then it was complete.”  
“Complete.”  
“And we got so far out of whack.”  
“We will put everything in place.”  
“This is not going to get worse.”  
“I am not trying to put on any pressure.”  
“The words lock together.”  
“They do.”  
“The lock is tight.”  
“But it moves along.”  
“Along.”  
“What else is there?”  
“A new kind of love.”  
“That works for me.”  
“I am back with him all the time.”  
“We are not going to cry.”  
There were no emotions affecting these locations.  
“Trust me.”  
“I accept it for what it is.”  
“What is it?”  
“I am not even thinking about this.”  
“And the doors all slammed at the same time.”  
“Is he really here?”  
“It made a difference then.”  
“I made a decision.”  
“This was necessary.”  
“Stop it while you can.”  
“I did.”  
There was all this activity in there.”  
“This is not my house.”  
“I do not even have the keys.”  
There was breathing outside of my place.  
“I do not even understand what that means.”  
“She gets it.”  
“Does not get it.”  
“Trying to get the collective mood.”  
“And it is over just like that.”  
“I do not have my phone.”  
“I do not have a location.”  
“We could begin and end at your place.”

“What would that mean?”  
“Are you safe?”  
“What does that mean?”  
“You are sleeping out here.”  
“I am not sleeping OUT HERE.”  
“I am out of myself.”  
“That is how we all live.”  
“Of course, we do.”  
“We do.”  
“I do.”  
“What does that do for you self-confidence?”  
“That is everything.”  
“Who makes promises?”  
“The person who controls the land.”  
“How do they control it?”  
“Through total personal commitment.”  
“How does that work?”  
“I have so much of myself committed to this operation.”  
“And you care.”  
“You do not know what it is to live this far out.”  
“What is the in and out?”  
“Do not get involved.”  
“I am so involved.”  
“How does that happen?”  
“I thought that the origins were different.”  
“You have a home improvement loan.”  
“That is impossible.”  
“Can you do it?”  
“I feel weak.”  
“There are two kinds of interference.”  
“What are you thinking?”  
“I am inside looking out.”  
There was this incredible stillness on the outside. No one was on the street.  
“This looks like a good parking place.”  
“Are you telling me how to drive?”  
“You are giving so much of yourself.”  
“Why should I care?”  
“What do you see in my eyes?”  
“I am very much ready for this.”  
“How much do you have invested in this place?”  
“My dreams.”  
“That is not going to happen to any of us.”  
“Knock on any door.”

“Funny.”  
“How funny?”  
“You are going to have to move your car.”  
“Time to do what you need to do.”  
“Go all the way.”  
That stillness lingered.  
“What else is happening here?”  
“I am clued in.”  
“What can you see about people?”  
“That outside layer has been peeled off.”  
“And what remains.”  
“I am defending what I have.”  
“And what is that?”  
“What do you want it to be?”  
“I can’t do anything about it.”  
“Do it.”  
“This is worse than a homer.”  
“You need a home first.”  
“First in, last out.”  
“Is that some kind of heroic attitude?”  
“I want that.”  
“And next week.”  
“I want to do my best to forget.”