

# abra

*by* Glynnis Eldridge

Cars like sardines  
Fell asleep keggling  
Woke up to Jane Goodall at 3 pm  
Of all the shit I have to do  
I get nocturnal every year  
She touches the back of his head  
She is afraid of open air food  
She catches a glimpse of a bulge  
She looks back  
Nudges arugula onto the floor  
Wonders how everyone else arrived here but doesn't ask  
With the coffee her mouth turns sour  
Huddles with the pre ripe things  
Tries to wake up and gets dizzy  
A face hidden in face  
She puts a knife in her ear  
Midtown is boring I don't wanna stay in midtown he says  
She screams  
Liam says it's fine  
What about Silvia? With an eye? The girlfriend of that guy on our  
team and she yells at him to spell her name. With an I or an e? Lia?  
Lea? Silvea? Silvia?  
Drunk on the train together as one big family  
Smells like wet leather and leans to his right against my left  
Against my right he leans with backpack and suitcase  
Clinging to your features to find you in other people  
His nose with me on the subway  
His hair with me at school  
His slouch down every hallway and his department blooming up the  
block  
Everyone kisses  
Everyone is kissing

What about tomorrow  
Means nothing through the game  
He removes his shoes to wade through the rubble to get to the  
ocean  
The half friend with weighted eyes  
She asked for a sweater and the secret names and every morning  
hour  
He says tuck yourself in and keep warm  
Try sleeping in rubble  
Try  
Two pills  
He reclines in fear  
Did you chew correctly  
It is like we never met  
He commits to the idea forever  
We both wake up screaming  
She denies her existence  
I ball the foil  
She braids her hair  
Polishes the horn  
Keeps all words in secret  
The twisting of nonfiction  
I look at you and you're so mysterious and I'm not mysterious  
An open brain  
He still speaks French  
The scalp  
The hole  
He cries  
She says I love you  
He asks her to stay  
She grips his hand  
She wipes his blood on her forehead  
She rinses it down the drain  
Sticks to familiar faces  
Could be anyone

They all eat sandwiches  
They wave  
I miss him  
They fuck in the tall grass  
He meets the queen  
She meets the queen  
He fucks her  
She is ten  
He is 30  
Does she say a word  
She does not  
They marry  
The crime of silence  
Inside the single room there is only dirt  
They tear each other down the middle  
They don't look in eyes  
They stutter  
They change course  
She offers a cigarette to the child  
Do not call me by the nickname you know  
Are they reunited  
Will be reunited  
He imagines me as her  
I come home to the kitchen on fire  
No water in the kettle  
No people inside  
Do you know how  
She pulls him back  
Pathetic magic  
The woman with the baby carriage  
She waves her hand over the relationship  
Says hocus pocus here we are  
Now they're immune  
She says it stupidly  
I am very very sorry

I am very very sorry  
I will go away forever  
She palms the back of his head  
You don't know me  
You say so much like you might want to  
She is aggressive with nail polish and music but pauses halfway  
through to murmur to herself  
She doesn't know why she sings  
This isn't a good song anyway  
She says to the audience  
And you know it just keeps going like that and that's the song so I  
hope you liked it  
Even at a very young age couldn't see the point in repetition  
Remembers the palm is more sensitive than the other side of the  
hand  
She palms the metal to fight infection fever  
Goes to the dentist anyway  
Should have stayed on the slow local  
He dances on the platform in a way he thinks is subtle  
He spreads his legs and waddles in place  
Tugs his hat and pouts  
Stares at me and the incoming train  
You can turn my lights out  
You love me like  
The train pulls out and he is gone  
That first summer after that fight after I cried when the condom  
broke but you said so? and this isn't working but here if you want  
you can wear my favorite sweatshirt and you walked me to the train  
(and kissed me goodbye) another man approached me to say love  
doesn't last forever / was that your boyfriend / I said something  
about tenses and lied about being together longer than we had (3  
years not 3 weeks) and he gave me his number "just in case"  
The subtle bass  
They board in expensive recycled graduation gowns

What if:

- spinal meningitis
- flu
- Strep
- Need braces again?
- Dangling booger?

The conductor comes in over the loud speaker to say aargh

I hate how visitors walk here

I want to live in my hometown

She looks longingly at the very double chinned man

He stops calling

Says goodnight

I wake up thinking my brother is gay

My room is a mess

No wonder

