

Here in There

Angela Carr

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A sample

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Signs of Interest

Iris gave her attention to the news. Iris gave her attention to relatives on the telephone. Iris gave her attention to writing letters. Iris gave her attention to protests. Iris gave her attention to the institution. Iris gave her letters to officials. Iris gave her time to relatives. Iris gave her letters to institutions. At last the storm was passing. Iris was late according to her relatives. The meal was nearly over. The car was damaged. Her experience was documented in a letter that described the future passing over her, beyond reach. There was no ceiling within sight. Interest was floating over her. It was another name for time. The herd is numberless. Since to whisper is grammar. It is a description of time. It underwrites everything. It is simple and declarative. It is red and digital. It is the emptying

of contingency – an escape. Iris gave herself to laughter. Iris gave herself to rejecting the apparatus while fantasizing about convent life. Iris characterized the nation's sudden and unified decision to vote differently as a residual Catholic tendency. The unrecognized nation within a larger, recognized nation had voted for an unknown, socialist, federal party. The unrecognized nation voted cynically and in unison and formed the official opposition within the recognized nation.

I gave my attention to the pause. I gave my attention to the frozen Skype image. I gave my attention to waiting. We were on hold. We could see but not touch and yet touch was composing us. We were broken only where skin could not answer. Iris' skin is ornamented with tattooed threads, mingling with each other in scrolls and coils, and alternating with straight lines. An image is truly raw and visible, fibres and sinews, strips and straps. The sense of beauty merges with and is consumed by the sense of reminiscence. Iris shuts down her computer. Iris stands up. Iris stretches her neck, shoulders, back. Iris shakes the cramps from her elbows, wrists. Iris releases, recollects.

Colophon

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