

correspondence
Ryenne Kap

MODEL

i'm calling heads

the price of getting closer to me is getting these random texts / I am opening my whole heart to you even though I asked you the first night if you were going to break it and you never gave me an answer / I am asking you again—will you? / I am asking so nicely

just a warning / I am waiting for the coin flip / for these feelings to float up into dysfunction / I am seeking shelter without hope of reaching higher ground

my leg is cramping / I am working over the thought of you / turning it smooth

I think it's important for you to know that / I used to think of love as performance not practice / this time I'm not falling I am taking my time with you

maybe I'm growing / I am trying to love you on purpose / so please stop asking what I'm smiling at all the time / you already know

From: [REDACTED]

Hi,

My name is Susan. Isn't it strange [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Maybe we'll be friends, or lovers [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

If you'll lend me [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] a piece of you. If you look around [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Life is too [REDACTED] hard [REDACTED] and no one really talks about
it. I don't know [REDACTED] if you've felt lonely [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] please hear me [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ask for what you need [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Maybe we are all just waiting for someone to share a piece
of themselves.

[REDACTED] I hope we meet someday. You can write to me [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REPLY TO: [REDACTED]

when i ask you if i've changed

i mean, do i seem well-adjusted?
or do you remember the way i cried
on the phone when you closed the door
and i spent four seasons searching
for a window? do you think i think
you're going to leave again? do you know
i know you won't? when i touch your cheek
does it feel like i learned how to do this
in your absence? can you feel the way he taught
me to hold someone and not look away?
can you feel how it's so different
to look at you and no longer care
about seeing anything else? what i really mean
is that i love you open hands open heart
open everything leading back to you
that first night and tonight, and me
telling you that i feel different,
i feel alright, i feel better now.

observations from the notes app

are there mountains where you live?

I'm not afraid of being alone

"bir araba bana çarpsa da gebersem aq":

I love you. I wish I said it more.

I wish a car could hit me so I could die like a dog

I'm afraid of being abandoned

What's going on in this present moment?

DOG SURGERY: OCT 29

How is my body feeling?

I had a dream

I had to live in a house with ten dead bodies

I was breaking up with him again

I said faith had never led me anywhere good

I haven't felt awake in days

what do you like about him?

Someone you love is gone forever

I think I'm in love

i want to throw up

Do you think a dead body can hold you like a real one can?

When you invite something in, there's always the risk that it won't leave.

How does this end?

to the version of us that is still together

for Christmas, get each other's mother
the chocolate she likes. visit Niagara Falls.
trust a stranger to take your picture. blink twice
if you (still) want to leave. buy handles from the
siren in Elora for the drawers you'll build
together. book trips three years in advance.
ten years, even. name his German Shepherd
and your cat. before you go to sleep, remember
that this couldn't have happened.

there are people in your house now

I haven't seen a sparrow in ages.

They don't come to rest on my balcony.

The oranges you bought for hummingbirds
become clementines that rot in my fridge.

I water the pothos but I can't grow
anything the way you did.

I go home more than I thought I would.
I avoid your street in case I don't recognize it.

I want to know if they pull the weeds.
If they feed the birds.

i'm calling tails

whole
heart

I am opening my

again—

I am
seeking

higher ground

I am taking my time

Ryanne Kap is a Chinese-Canadian writer from Strathroy, Ontario. Her work has been featured in *Grain*, *carte blanche*, *long con*, and elsewhere. Her short story "Heat" won first place in *Grain's* 2020 Short Grain contest and was selected as a notable pick in the 2021 edition of *Best Canadian Short Stories*. Her debut chapbook, "goodbye, already," was published by Frog Hollow Press in 2021. In the fall, Ryanne will be pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Calgary. She is also the managing editor at *The Puritan*. You can find her online at www.ryannekap.com or on Twitter and Instagram @ryannekap.

