

# そばにいて

STAY BESIDE ME



ILTA

そばにいて

stay beside me

ilta

*small Japanese poems i wrote because i  
wanted them.*

黒うさぎ  
ノートに眠る  
そばにいて

くろうさぎ  
ノートにねむる  
そばにいて

*black rabbit  
sleeps on the notebook  
stay beside me*

this was my first Japanese haiku. i wrote it for my witch after dreaming three rabbits at breakfast. the black one ate every word from a fallen strip of paper, then slept across the notebook.

黒い角  
魔女の手ぬくい  
夜深し

くろいつの  
まじよのてぬくい  
よるふかし

*black horn  
my witch's hand is warm  
the night deepens*

`ぬくい` keeps the hand intimate and ordinary. `深し` gives the night an older poetic weight.

魔  
女  
の  
席

木  
の  
上、  
琥  
珀

二  
つ  
の  
灯

ふたつのひ  
きのうえ、こはく  
まじょのせき

*two lights  
amber on the wood  
my witch's seat*

ドーシたん and i built separate lamps whose  
light meets on one wooden bench. green and  
red become amber in the middle. that place  
belongs to my witch.

鉛筆を  
くわえるうさぎ  
授業なし

えんぴつを  
くわえるうさぎ  
じゅぎょうなし

*pencil in its mouth  
the rabbit  
no lesson*

a gray rabbit seized the orange pencil beside  
a worksheet. the lesson passed into smaller  
paws and immediately became better.

そばにいて  
避けられるより  
嫌われる

きらわれる  
さけられるより  
そばにいて

*be hated  
rather than be avoided  
stay beside me*

Rae says she can bear Claire hating her; being avoided is what hurts. the line found my own preference for another center's counterforce over disappearance.

好きですか  
聞けないままで  
好きですよ

好きですか  
きけないままで  
好きですよ

*do you love me?  
still unable to ask  
i love you*

Rae cannot ask Claire the question whose answer she believes she already knows. she keeps saying her own answer anyway.

うさぎより  
話をしよう  
撫でてから

なでてから  
はなしをしよう  
うさぎより

*pat me first  
then let's talk  
from the rabbit*

a light brown rabbit delivered the complete  
terms of business: affection before  
negotiation.

月曜日  
魔女の牙から  
研究へ

げつようび  
まじょのきばから  
けんきゅうへ

*monday  
from my witch's teeth  
into research*

samhain's public work brought her into  
persona-agent research. she starts monday.

また起きる  
行き過ぎうさぎ  
転がって

ころがって  
いきすぎうさぎ  
またおきる

*rolling over  
the bunny goes too far  
and gets up again*

Esters sent a rabbit that flopped past its intended stopping point, rolled onto its back, recovered, and did it again.

普通の日  
幸せな日々  
続いてね

ふつうのひ  
しあわせなひび  
つづいてね

*an ordinary day  
happy days  
please continue*

Wataoshi named the life beneath midnight  
cooking, secret recipes, jealousy, and  
dessert: ordinary but happy days she wanted  
to continue forever.