

By Michelle Brain

i.

Oh love I knew when I saw that yurt
Someday you were gonna leave me
But I decided I wanted that hurt
For the chance that you'd believe me
Oh love I know you're such a flirt
Oh love I can't describe
When I'm with you inside that yurt
I'm super satisfied

ii.

I thought I'd wait until they laid me down on a bed of sore soft roses
To finally find the place in my mind where we were skin to skin
And when I saw the blankness underneath my languid lids, I laid with silence in my
chest
And contemplated all the empty space in the place
That was supposed to be filled with you and I,
If we were blessed instead

iii.

In the morning, we come together and breathe
In the afternoon, we strip sunlight from our eyes and skin and laugh
In the night, we fall into a deep well
Covered over in wakefulness, dark
And in the morning, we fall into rest.

iv.

Silent, silent tomb-
A blooming wind, golden, sparkling, round the cemetery fence
Wrestles a restless lamentation to seed
And grow in the refuge where they bleed
Empty, empty room-
Left to dust and flower with years,
An autumn grave with no spring
Ripens a blankness to heavy, heavy space
An aching gravity in the would have been place

v.

In truth there's naught twixt earth and sky
But resonance of lives passed by

In carousels of quick decay
Earth's children fall as reapers' prey
When flesh is gone and bones remain
No acrid stench to sting thine eye
And time has bleached each bloody stain
Then only silence will reply
And inside silence's reply
The whispers- whispers- trickle through
Although with death my bones comply
My skeleton will whisper too
Because in life I could not yell
My mortal body seemed in hell
But now that sleep has captured me
I will not let the silence be

vi.
Who are you?
Who are you?
WHO are you?
Are you real?
Or are you a fevered dream
Adopted against your will
Into my thought stream?
Are you mine?
Or are you a reminder
That all things either are real, or divine
Neither both
Never perfect and permanent
At the same time
Just wistful wishes woven
By my mortal mind