

I DO NOT HEAR YOUR HAND ON THE LATCH I WAKE TO YOU IN MY  
BED YOUR BACK AGAINST THE WALL YOU ARE MY RIB  
HEADBOARD I KNOW YOUR SMELL THERE IS NO WORK FOR  
MY EYES HALF AWARE I FEEL YOUR HAND MOVE AND THE  
PAIN IS YOUR SIGNATURE AND THE START WE ARE NO FIT  
MY MOUTH PROVIDES COMFORT FOR US BUT THE MILK IS NO  
MILK THE NIPPLE NO BREAST THE BREASTS NOT MINE MY  
PUZZLE STILL I AM AN INFANT AND YOU ARE NOT MY MOTHER  
I ASK THE RUG ON THE STAIR INTRICATE PATTERN HOLD THE  
SOUND THERE IS BLOOD AND MORE BLOOD THERE IS SHIT IN  
THE BLOOD THIS IS NOT FEEDING TIME I FIND MY SKIN A  
COVER OF SENSE THE ORDAINED EDGE BUT MY SKIN FAILS I  
GAPE FULL OF YOU NOT TAKEN ELSEWHERE YOU LOCK AND  
CONVULSE THEN EASE NEAR ME I NEVER QUIET I AM AROUSED  
ALL THE TIME NOW I WORK THE PAUSE IN THE NIGHT WHEN  
NO WOMEN GO ABOUT AND NO WOMEN COME WHEN CALLED  
I EXALT IN MY SKILL IN THE SHADE EYELESS BABY TRICKS  
TONGUE CURLED AROUND ALL SWEET BREATH AND I SHOW YOU  
THIS NOW AND KEEP IT FOR LATER MY ROOM HAS FOUR  
DOORS NOT ALL CLOSED THE ROOM HAS THREE WINDOWS  
SHUT AND A BLIND CLOSET HERE IS RUSTY WATER TO CLEAN  
ME WELL ENOUGH TO GIVE BACK TO PEOPLE I AM WHERE  
BONES FALL AFTER EATING BEFORE YOU DIE I SEE YOUR  
BODY ON A BED IN THE LIGHT YOUR SHIRT IS OPEN A SUITOR'S  
BOAST YOUR CHEST ADMITTING DEVOTION I HAD NOT  
EXPECTED A CLAIM FROM A DYING MAN YOU SURPRISE ME  
DEAD BEFORE I AM WHEN YOU COME ALONG BY NIGHT TO  
WATCH MY OWN GIRL I LOVE HER MORE AND SEND YOU HOME

I AM INDIFFERENT TO MYSELF BUT NOT TO MY CHILD I ALWAYS  
JUSTIFIED MY INACTIVITY AND CARELESSNESS IN THE FACE OF  
DANGER BECAUSE I WAS SURE TO BE SOMEONE'S VICTIM I  
GRINNED AND LOITERED IN GUILTY ANTICIPATION NOW I MUST  
BE HERE TO WATCH HER I EXPERIMENT TO SEE IF I CAN STAND  
HER PAIN I CANNOT I AM SLY AND DISHONEST TALKING ABOUT  
WHY I SHOULD BE LEFT ALIVE BUT IT IS NOT MY WAY WITH HER  
SHE MUST STAY WELL BECAUSE HER MIND WILL OFFER NO  
HIDING PLACE IF ILLNESS OR VIOLENCE FINDS HER I WANT TO  
BE MORE THAN HER CUSTODIAN AND A FRIEND OF THE  
EXECUTIONER FUCK ME AND FUCK ALL OF YOU WHO WOULD  
HURT HER I DID NOT WANT MY CHILD BECAUSE I KNEW I  
COULD NOT LIKE THE FEELING WHEN SHE WAS THREATENED BUT  
ONE MORNING IN A MOVEMENT OF INFINITE TENDERNESS I

CALLED HER I CANNOT PRECLUDE HER DEATH AND OUR  
DEPENDENCE LETS EVERY DANGER WORK UNCHALLENGED THE  
IDEA THAT I AM CRIMINAL RECURS EACH TIME THERE IS REAL  
TROUBLE I WOULD KILL HER RATHER THAN WATCH A DIRTY  
ENDING BUT THE KILLING WOULD SPOIL MY PITY IF MY INSTINCT  
IS RUINED I WILL BE THE PERSON WHO CAN DO ANYTHING TO  
YOU I AM SULLEN AND THEN FRANTIC WHEN I CANNOT BE  
WHOLLY WITHIN THE ZONE OF MY INFANT I AM CONSUMED BY  
HER I AM AN ANIMAL WHO DOES ALL SHE SHOULD I AM  
SURPRISED THAT I CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HER I WAS PAST  
FEELING MUCH BECAUSE I WAS TIRED OF MYSELF BUT I WANT  
HER TO LIVE I HATE EACH OF YOU WHO MURDERS NOW MY  
BEST SENSES ARE BACK AND WHAT I FEEL AFTER LOVE IS FEAR  
I FEAR FIVE THINGS AND MYSELF I FEAR THE NEW ILLNESS I  
AM NOT SURE IF THE CHILD AND I ARE SICK NOW THAT SHE IS  
BORN I AM AFRAID TO KNOW I TOUCH HER NECK I AM NOT  
CERTAIN I COULD CARE FOR HER I FEAR PEOPLE CRAZY  
MAD FROM NEED AND THE CONTEMPT OF EVERYONE WHO  
COULD HELP THEM I GO WALKING AND I HOPE SOMEONE DOES  
NOT SEE MY FAT BABY AS AN INSULT I AM AFRAID OF THE  
ONES IN POWER WHO KILL PEOPLE AND DO NOT ADMIT GRIEF  
THEY WILL NOT STAY IN A ROOM WITH A DYING BABY THEY WILL  
NOT SPEND THE DAYS IT CAN TAKE I FEAR SUBSTANCES  
THAT CANNOT BE SENSED AND MUST NOT BE TOUCHED THE  
RESIDUE OF GOOD AND BAD IDEAS I TURN THE CHILD OVER AND  
OVER TO LOOK FOR SIGNS CONTAMINATION MAKES THE NEW  
WEATHER AND THE STINKING HEAT THE BABY IS RED AND TRIES  
TO PULL AWAY FROM ME AFTER THIS IDIOT PERIOD OF  
SQUANDERING AND WAITING I FEAR EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT  
WELCOME CHANGE THE SHOCK OF A CUTTING BIRTH  
REMINDS ME THAT PAIN IS NOT THOUGHT MY NEED TO PROTECT  
COMES WITH THE CHILD IT MAY GIVE ME TIME