

An ode to university, wonder, and doubt

First-year

1. Arrival

Where sunsets cling to buildings
And stars sleep on the ground
Where people exhale clouds
And spires dwarf their flight

Where dreams drift with the dreamers
Where we rise and float and fall
Where the sky becomes this city
And the lights that blind must guide

We stand looking for tomorrow
And we dream of being more
As sunsets fall from buildings
And stars sleep on floor

2. New friendship and old belonging

Laughter, amusement, ambivalence
balanced on the highest shelf
Shifting in the fading light
So close and yet not self

*Laughter, amusement, engagement
so simple, done with ease
Lying on the floor, surrounded
by the roots, the roots, our trees*

Sun on the horizon
of warmth not yet felt
The beguiling draw of competing
of playing a hand we were not dealt

versions of what Might Be
moulded indifference
Invited
confused, Passionately reimagined
Through force, the fire ignited

*Not forgotten and not excluded
the tea that sits there, brewed
A fire once a-burning
with smoke, will be subdued*

Stretched to reach and tried
What we want and how we do
You hold, you're held, you're reeling
The sought after becomes the true

Slip through hands like silk
Doubting, winning? Filth.

Second year

3. Please hold

Thank you for your time I
will report back shortly

Please hold

The door, I promise I'm still coming
The world is just revolving
So quickly
I cannot find my shoes

Please hold

Onto the receipt
From the store yesterday
I owe you for the bananas

Please hold

It up a little higher
I'm trying to imagine with everything else in
Does it look skew to you?
It should be fine

Please hold

My attention
It's the only thing I have
So very fun to give
To hold
To have

Please hold

On a second
That isn't what I said
You're really taking it out of context
Just try to understand

Please hold

My hand
I don't know where to put it
It feels safe with you

My necklace is all tangled
I've been trying for months
Maybe you can give it a go

I'm sorry
It's not broken
I can fix it

Please hold

It together
And me
And us

It's getting cold
I'm feeling frightened
Please

Please

Hold

4. First love lost

The sky tells of a fading scene
With night and day and pink between
It does not rush, it does not blush
It simply turns with light's routine

The sea that grows and falls each day
With froth and foam above
Does not yearn or laugh or moan
nor find a longing to turn to love

The sun doesn't chase the moon
They simply move because they must
As I must leave you here, my love
Lest we gather dust

No, the sea doesn't kiss the shore
She simply moves because she must
And I must leave you here, my love
Lest we gather dust

For though the world is full of love
And madness tempts what we can be
In the end we all must fall
Crash and burn like fire and sea

For though the world is full of love, my dear
And tempts what might be true
The sun must set
The sea must cede
And so must me and you

Third year

5. Third year, Second thoughts

*If you want to be everything, you will become it.
That is your punishment.*

I'm bored of my own yearning, this endless chase of dreams,
A carousel of wishes, spinning between extremes.
My heart, a tired actor, on a stage too vast and wide,
Playing the same old script, amongst boxes I "stepped outside."

In the garden of my desires, where ambitions grew like weeds,
I find myself wandering, still looking for new seeds
There is no shortage of flowers, of blooms I once adored
No shortage of colourful jars, half empty, half stored

And yet I keep on yearning, like a tongue that finds a sore
I don't know how to do, just how to want it more
I got my wish of doing everything, it's made me feel numb
And "Who am I becoming?" will soon be "Who I have become"

6. Coda

ah, the moon
who never made her own light,
only waves and werewolves
we cannot all be the sun

The rush of the city
Post-it notes that cling to beige walls
drive numbers up and down
make gavels fall
make papers
shuffle dreams
higher
brighter

You'd make a beautiful sun
I thought
In spires, inspired to glow

But at night
I haunt
I howl
I crash, I consume

ah, the moon
the shadow that still glows bright
waves and werewolves it is, my love
we will shine at night