

## AFTER TWO QUOTES FROM JOHN ASHBERY

'Look, this is what I am, what I'm made of'  
– John Ashbery, 'Girls on the Run'

This is what I am and, looking back,  
what I have always been. I remember  
asking my school friend if he noticed  
anything new in my room; the smallest  
thing on my chest of drawers. He didn't.

Tonight, beats and seductive vocals  
merge with flute and oboe on the radio,  
a blur of stations and genres. Intense,  
accidental, it's a marvellous mash-up,  
airways crossing paths before entering

the building. Something close to music,  
near to how I feel, adrift in the world  
where noise and words crowd in. It is  
absolute chaos, a welcome distraction,  
it is recycled language, disrupted song,

chance inspired tunes that I seek out  
late night to keep me awake, send me  
to sleep. World is infinitesimally layered,  
overlaid and piled up high. 'We never live  
long enough to know what today is like.' \*

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\* 'We never live...' is from John Ashbery's 'The Improvement'

LOYAL INVENTORY

targeted advice

insolvent abuse

leaving arrangements

comfortless zone

associative meander

scrabble for meaning

centuries of drizzle

scribbled despair

sustained assessment

ethereal process

comatose body

absolute fugue

informal coherence

the land drops away

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## OTHER SENTENCES

for David Miller

Understanding  
is the key to also  
thinking,  
a way to make amends.  
If you  
decide to beg to differ  
we will  
agree to disagree.

What does language mean  
to you?  
I'd love to hear about  
what you think,  
want you to cross  
collapsing borders  
claim a world without  
boundaries.

I have  
other plans for sentences,  
want to  
resist emotional extremities.  
The voice  
can only articulate so much,  
the mind  
only think what it can speak.

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ENDLESS PROSPECTS

every thing  
& no thing

drifting music  
drifting

every where  
& no where

*every time I say goodbye  
I cry a little*

just a little

not a lot

nothing happens as it happens

every one is where  
they are

or might be

sound rolls out of  
every night

or might  
or could

that voice again  
that voice

every where  
& no where

nothing happens

as it happens

because

it happens

every time

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