

**THE-IN-
BETWEEN**

**DANA TEEN
LOMAX**

**21E
DU**

the-in-
between
**(-because-of-
marthe-reed-)**

To reencounter
the **inbetween**,
we must learn
not only to **resee**
but also to
rearticulate that
which is seen,
more complexly,
anew.

--Marthe Reed

**Counter-
Desecration**

the-in-between-o
f-my-foot-and-wh
en-it-hits-the-gro
und-touches-the-
earth-kisses-it-if
i-am-being-poeti
c-or-particularly
cheery-the-effect
-of-the-weight-w
here-i-am-heade
d-and-why-plus
how-much-energ
y-i-take-to-get-th
ere-and-not-fore
going-the-why,-o
f-course,-and-th
e-towhee-song-t
hat-i-do-not-reco
gnize-busy-as-i-
constantly-am-wi
th-human-concer
ns-along-on-the-
way...-all-this-fro
m-the-Sundarba
ns'-increasingly-
vital-perspective-

the-in-between-o
f-collectivity-how
-much-am-i-willin
g-to-offer-what-i-
have-to-someon
e-else-what-com
mitments-will-i-a
dhere-to-in-my-w
ork-free-time-fin
ances-for-real-h
ow-do-i-frame-a
ny-sacrifice-besi
des-inconvenien
ce-or-sacrifice-a
nd-if-i-do-not-fra
me-it-differently-t
hen-what's-the-u
se-because-then
-i-am-not-genuin
ely-concerned-at
-all-and-miss-the
-complete-actual
-living-point-

the-in-between-o
f-understanding-t
he-fb-comment-t
o-someone-else-
by-rasheedah-ph
illips,-"but-alas,-it
-appears-you-ar
e-still-using-the-
privilege-of-white
ness-to-gain-curr
ency-that-you-do
n't-deserve"-sitti
ng-with-the-term
-"deserve"-and-t
hinking-of-the-pe
arly-whiteness-al
l-over-me-all-of-t
he-time-all-the-c
urrency-i-have-in
-my-pocket-at-thi
s-moment-and-e
ven-before-that-

the-in-between-o
f-being-married-t
o-a-person-with-
an-addiction-the-
fuck-it-i'm-out-th
e-open-door-opti
on-of-not-this-ag
ain-and-then-the
-work-of-not-my-
problem-at-all-an
d-i-can-still-love-
him-i-do-not-fall-j
ust-because-he-f
alls-the-is-this-w
hat-i-signed-on-f
or-of-an-untrue-a
ddict's-reality-the
-poem-that-write
s-itself-in-circles-
but-because-it-is
-poetry-manages
-to-hold-it-all-at-t
he-same-time-

the-in-between-o
f-grappling-with-
gibran's-"your-ch
ildren-are-not-yo
ur-children"-watc
hing-my-17-year
-old-daughter-wa
lk-away-into-adul
thood-with-her-bl
ack-combat-boot
s-and-head-held
-high-full-of-book
s-and-practical-i
deas-about-how-
to-unfuck-society
-wearing-her-ow
n-history-like-a-f
ull-belly-light-fro
m-within-glowing
-with-the-urge-to
-rebel-and-accep
t-because-that's-
what-love-is-

the-in-between-o
f-we-were-all-on
ce-a-single-celle
d-organism-you-
me-every-person
-that-has-urinate
d-a-little-on-them
selves-at-some-
point-or-another-
so-just-as-i-migh
t-be-pissed-at-yo
u-step-mother-fo
r-wanting-as-sar
ah-anne-cox-say
s-to-erase-me-if-
you-could-or-for-
doing-stupid-shit
-cousin-or-for-th
e-spots-i-cannot-
see,-come-on-ov
er-because-we-h
ave-saved-you-a
-nice-place-in-th
e-booth-

the-in-between-o
f-myself-that-writ
es-words-down-
and-loves-conce
ptual-and-comm
unal-art-and-kno
ws-the-world-wo
uld-be-safer-and
-happier-and-mo
re-free-for-every
one-if-we-all-cre
ated-every-singl
e-day-and-the-p
erson-on-the-pla
net-who-struggle
s-to-make-a-livin
g-somehow-and-
buys-unnecessa
ry-things-to-subs
titute-for-the-rest
-that-this-racked-
body-is-not-getti
ng-but-definitely-
needs-

the-in-between-o
f-i-cannot-stand-t
o-watch-the-new
s-another-suited-
man-grabbed-he
r-body-without-c
onsent-while-the
-president-denie
s-it-all-again-the-
banter-that-is-so
-inane-and-repet
itive-at-this-point
-and-the-ever-vi
gilance-that-is,-l
et's-face-it,-a-par
t-of-trauma-and-
unfortunately,-in-
this-country-right
-now-could-be-s
een-as-the-gift-o
f-surviving-the-tr
auma-in-the-first
-place-so-us-sur
viving-or-at-least
-trying-to-

the-in-between-o
f-right-before-my
-dog-died-who-w
hen-i-was-sick-la
id-her-head-on-
my-lap-just-by-w
ay-of-comfort-wit
h-no-illusions-bu
t-reassurance-all
-the-same-not-u
nlike-the-night-m
y-mother-quit-livi
ng-she-said,-“hi-t
een”-like-it-was-
any-other-day-a
nd-then-i-watche
d-her-surrender-
under-the-“care”-
that-drained-the-
last-breath-from-
her-i-don’t-know-
what-the-doctors
-saw-but-i-only-s
aw-her-leaving-

the-in-between-o
f-the-scrub-jay's-
call-and-the-fero-
city-of-my-black-
cat-jack-o'reilly-
who-hears-the-s
ong-in-a-come-t
o-jesus-kind-of-
way-even-thoug
h-like-many-ame-
ricans-he-has-alr-
eady-eaten-or-th
e-ruby-crowned-
kinglet-who-is-so
-elegant-but-my-
daughter-calls-bi-
rd-watching-a-ti-
me-out,-a-specifi-
c-kind-of-punish-
ment-while-nicol-
e-brodsky-tries-t
o-explain-once-
more-that-they-a-
re-each-a-specie-
s-all-their-own

the-in-between-o
f-if-spinoza-is-rig
ht-and-no-one-d
oes-wrong-knowi
ngly-then-why-c
an't-i-commit-to-f
ighting-harder-fo
r-the-planet-i-ha
ve-seen-the-ice-
caps-melting-an
d-the-baby-polar
-bears-stuck-on-
remote-dwindlin
g-cubes-and-i-se
e-myself-as-alig
ned-with-their-de
stinies-their-fate-
is-my-fate-marth
e-reed-points-“w
e'-are-'it'”-all-of-it
-all-of-us-are-nat
ure-problem-and
-solution-but-still
-i-will-travel-cros
s-country-to-pres
ent-at-this-poetry
-conference-

the-in-between-o
f-the-poet-called-
to-write-thin-line
s-down-a-page-a
fter-her-friend-m
arthe-dies-sudde
nly-and-taking-u
p-the-friend's-ide
as-is-a-kind-of-c
onversation-but-
a-lonely-one-bec
ause-the-friend-i
sn't-here-to-liste
n-or-suggest-or-
correct-or-admir
e-or-theorize-or-j
ust-eat-somethin
g-amazing-that-s
he-popped-into-t
he-oven-yesterd
ay-and-would-so
-willingly-yeah-i-
am-sure-share-

the-in-between-o
f-someone-who-
has-been-on-the
-earth-long-enou
gh-to-know-that
branding-works-
and-also-long-en
ough-to-know-th
at-it-does-not-m
atter-one-bit-we-l
ose-everything-i
n-the-end:-paren
ts-gone-child-mo
ving-on-hair-thin
ning,-eyes-fuzzy
-over-time-excus
e-me-can-you-re
peat-that-and-so
-what-do-we-carr
y-forward-the-wi
sdom-of-love-is-
as-much-as-i-ha
ve-found-at-all-w
orth-teaching-or-
learning-

the-in-between-o
f-my-belief-in-so
mething-unifying
-giovanni-singlet
on-says-this-is-f
aith-the-women-i
-have-admired-
most-in-my-life-b
elieved-so-stron
gly-in-god-that-i-
would-tilt-my-he
ad-thinking-of-ge
tting-filled-with-th
e-spirit-or-speaki
ng-in-tongues-alt
hough-i-confess-
i-knew-that-the-t
v-evangelists-we
re-robbers-but-i-
had-no-trouble-b
elieving-the-med
ium-at-the-spiritu
alist-church-whe
n-she-said-my-gr
andmother-was-
always-with-me-
because-yes-i-al
ready-knew-that-

the-in-between-o
f-dawn-and-day-
or-dusk-and-nigh
t-of-youth-and-ol
d-age-living-ther
e-these-days-ext
ending-a-hand-t
o-the-heavens-s
eeing-all-i-still-ha
ve-left-to-realize-
treading-h2o-in-t
he-middle-of-the
-lake-with-shore
s-on-all-sides-no
t-uncomfortable-j
ust-maybe-a-littl
e-tired-of-swimm
ing-missing-all-of
-the-people-who-
are-no-longer-in-
the-water-watchi
ng-the-changing-
light-the-early-m
orning-mist-and-t
he-evening-fog-
makes-me-cry-

the-in-between-o
f-an-art-installati
on-that-has-ever
y-damage-i-have
-caused-cut-awa
y-from-the-imag
e-of-my-life-the-
plastic-i-tossed-c
arelessly-the-friv
olity-of-my-purch
ases-the-money-
i-did-not-spend-t
o-help-others-th
e-extra-pairs-of-
whatever-stacke
d-in-my-closet-th
e-reaching-indivi
dualism-for-what
ever-i-was-strivin
g-for-that-meant-
only-capitalism-t
he-ways-i-disreg
arded-people-i-w
ould-give-my-life
-for-all-this-not-a
s-a-mea-culpa-m
ea-culpa-but-to-s
ee-what's-what-

the-in-between-of
f-the-reader-and-
the-page-a-world
-we-enter-not-knowing-each-other-and-projecting-whole-sets-of-values-and-experiences-on-each-other-using-the-20-lb-super-white-to-shape-shift-and-we-have-a-picture-now-from-space-of-a-black-hole-the-papers-say-we-are-attempting-to-see-the-unseeable-it-is-an-international-effort-to-view-the-supermassive-black-hole-in-the-center-of-galaxy-M87-well,-actually,-its-silhouette-

the-in-between-of-how-easy-to-for-give-when-i-have-not-been-subjected-to-or-a-victim-of-prejudice-on-the-daily-and-so-surprised-when-my-daughter-said-there-are-unforgivable-crimes-and-i-said-such-as-and-she-said-rape-and-harm-to-children-with-lines-in-her-forehead-i-thought-of-the-hierarchies-of-the-inmates-held-in-the-criminal-pecking-order-and-then-thought-of-the-men-i-had-worked-with-and-which-people-can-afford-the-redemptive-arc-and-which-cannot-

acknowledgements-many-thanks
-to-suzanna-gardner-at-dusie-and
the-poets-in-the-dusie-kollektiv-
without-them-i-would-not-have-
started-this-experiment-nor-so-
many-others-and-love-to-una-and-
st eve-who-listen-and-sarah-rosenthal-
who-reads-pl us-all-of-the-people-
in-these-poems-who-are-my-lifetime-
friends-and-of-course-to-marthe-whom-
i-miss-and-whose-work-keeps-teaching-
me-in-all-of-the-best-ways-
x-