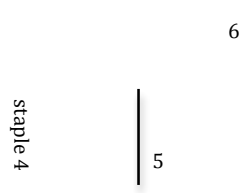# Anywhere But Here (*Cistaceae*)

Jonathan Skinner

A Fan Poem
for Marthe Reed

6

staple 4

5

fold 1

Rock cistus gum white-leaved rockrose
Aleppo pine Jupiter's beard wild lavender
Tree germander juniper Tree heather Strawberry tree
Cork oak Intermediate periwinkle common thatching
grass Mediterranean fan palm Tree spurge
Freesia running wild occupying mimosa

They move behind your back never when you look
They could be dying or advancing on your home
In the spaces between your attention
You wouldn't know if you didn't slow stop learn to read
The dew-drinking sage covering the high desert
Piñon and juniper in conference on the quartz-rich slopes
Cottonwood pumping water into messy overproduction

2

now read across the fan's caesura →

Aspen grove individuals breathing over time
Ponderosas releasing sweet vanilla from their
In travels the songline is of rhyming sensations
The familiar stranger at a similar bend in the trail
The same planet subject to atmosphere soils exposure
An island is a garden is a prison is a meeting place
Aeonium

as they expand and contract up mountains
furrowed bark
similar but different
at the same altitude in a climate not all that different
in countless combinations
Barbery Fig please meet Euphorbia
meet Verode

3

Who stayed who left who resisted who went along
Who lived on the margins who ran out of water
Who had been watched from afar who landed
Who wandered in search of recognition a foothold
In search of some shade water fruit nuts

who found themselves uprooted displaced underway
whose crops failed whose lives were threatened
who were investigated
an island resting place to put down roots
or meat kindling for fire to tend through the night

4

Catastrophe sent me far from home
Ill unfed without a place to rest
Sun beat down and the stars at night
Till my feet found this rock crevice
Uncertain the territory roses welcome me
Settled flowers bloom in familiar light

for best results use bone folder

DUSIE