

5-4-3-2-1

54321

5youcansee4youcanfeel3youcanhear2youcansmell1youcantaste
okay- i will try.

all i can see is me-
falling apart and trying to
grasp onto stars too far up to
even singe my fingertips
i wonder if you are looking too-
can you see me trying to glue my bones together
from the outside- i
still see the bending of my ligaments
even through ivory dams //
i am stunted and you are smothering me in
your promises of infinity
and then i can't see me anymore

my sight has dwindled but
my fingertips have been terrestrially preserved so
i flex them into the darkness- a final attempt to
clasp something that is not riddled in
carbon and hate
i selfishly hope to find you
but find only the overripe persimmons
still hanging onto their dying branches- i will pick one for later &
all i can feel is fruit- maybe it is harvest season but maybe
the sharp things have candied themselves into apricots and apples

my ears are small like a baby's
and all i can hear are my own muffled ramblings about
something or other- probably about the planets and such.
i know i am not drowning because i am breathing, my eyes are open,
but all i can hear are floods in my eardrums
and i can hear the laughter of friends that have
long since left me, and of mothers who used to be carefree and-
shit. this isn't working.

i can smell better than anyone i know and

i am no longer congested- the heaving of my chest has
eased the mucus in my sinuses- yet all i can smell is
the perfume i wear leaking across hardwood and
tuna from the cat bowl (absolutely rancid)
and the smell of what i have come to call
smoldering fingers-
something so putrid you cannot even speak
and i am the fingers and i am smoldering
but i can't see, remember?

& all i can taste is vomit.
i was always scared of regurgitation-
i feared it the way summer fears the fall
& it is filling my mouth yet my teeth remain vacant-
i can taste the acid and i
swallow/swallow/swallow again
until i can't swallow any longer
& all i can taste is vomit

i cannot count down from 5 to 1-
this i have learned- and i knew i was
never good at math but i did not think it
would make me notice so many disgusting things

never will i do this again