

JESSICA GOODFELLOW

species: empty:

If I mention “perpetual motion” I mean “a body leaning into the wind.”

When I say “endless” I’m thinking “if a species has a memory you are it.”

When I educate the air that I in patience wait for your return clearly I mean “the little yellow birds of your childhood have lit upon my center but you are not among them.”

For “absence” please substitute “finally the birds will have a word for chaos.”

For “empty” please hear “a chronospecies is a species which changes physically morphologically genetically and/or behaviorally over time on an evolutionary scale such that the originating species and the species it becomes could not be classified as the same species had they existed at the same point in time. . . .”

If I whisper “species” I mean “a fugue of bone and clock and wind.”

For “over time” please choose one of the following three: “through a revolving door,” “like a string of even numbers,” “like a string of even numbers caught in a revolving door.”

Please erase “an evolutionary scale” and insert a möbius strip.

When I falter over “could not be classified” it’s because I’m busy pasting our wedding photo over that part of the definition.

The problem with “had they existed” is that it suggests its opposite “had they not existed” the way that “memory” suggests “absence.”

When I repeat “the same point in time” I mean of course “may no longer be possible.”

I’m placing the last known strand of your hair down the center of this page.

If I howl pretend it’s a dial tone.

When I answer “No I’ve had no word” in every possible tense I mean it.