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## Because I Don't Know How to Say

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*Because I Don't Know How to Say*

JESSICA SHUBERT

I want to tell you I feel like a cat stuck under a garden shed  
But I also feel like a ghost  
Careening around the house like a guitar solo  
With my body buried in the garden  
For so long I'm growing roots and it scares me because  
I'd like to leave someday  
I want to tell you to draw me a line between yesterday and today  
I want to tell you to sing me the difference between a house and a crypt  
But I don't know that you can sing

Neither can I  
It's just I have this thing where sometimes I can't do stuff  
Even if I want to, even if I have to  
And I know exactly how long I've been here,  
Waiting for the garden shed to crush me, motionless  
While at the same time I also rapidly haunt in all directions  
Trying to shamble together the plumbing  
Between the thought and the action  
Subject—Verb—Object

I ask you  
Can I be two things at once?  
I feel like a mixed metaphor  
Sometimes— it's this thing called executive dysfunction  
And it means a lot of things; for me, I often can't  
Finish things or even get started,  
Even if  
I want to  
Tell you

I can't tell— is this an ailment of the body, mind, or soul?  
Draw me  
A line between them  
Sing me  
The difference  
I ask you  
Can I be all three at once? Is that enough?  
Am I asking too much?