denotes titled text denotes voiceover

the metacarpal bones are five, one to each digit. there are ten digits, five to each hand, and two hands,

one to each arm.

•••

either the fist is clenched or it is not.

they clench their fists

see?

you can't pretend a clenched fist

a large eagle is making wide circles in the sky

you are perfectly realistic,

floating on the breeze without a beat of its wings



## perfectly authentic.

a large eagle,

floating.

it's no use

## fragments of dead are moving in the soft current of artificial sounds

a figure doubles over, clutches her gut.

I

you

can't find the words I want, like -

you can

on the tip of my tongue, but can't say

he was beautiful

and

## or

help me.



Commented [NC2]:

## clears throat.

the whole room is present,

the whole room is waiting for you to recover yourself.

but there's no detail. no detail at all. and what if people don't accept his being a yes a real with eyelashes little white ones like feathers and hands and feet which yes, admittedly we didn't see because of the because of the but we have the prints yes, we have those we have those hand-and-footprints and unless they took them from another a more perfectly shaped but they didn't they didn't because there's a trace a trace of his of my blood on the ink and so he really must have been a real really my our own





the word sticks in her throat

my first instinct was not to hold him was not to touch him.

why did I

we

feel like that? why was there no like immediate collision of feeling? where was my emotionally appropriate response to the actually-existing thing?

a figure pulls a long hair from their mouth. carefully, precisely, they roll it around their fingers and hide the strand safely under a stone.

she begins fidgeting, trying and failing to take a deep breath.

try yawning. involuntarily open your mouth wide and inhale deeply



I can't involuntarily / do it

/ do it like it's nothing a mere whim

an urge?

an urge, yes. a compulsion to yawn.

christ, am I

we

you

going into anaphylactic shock?

because if that's what this is then I'm like

I'm just thinking that we should seek medical assistance as a matter of urgency because because whatever it is it probably might definitely be a medical emergency

•••

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