

Instructions To Four Walls

Now one of you turn this way
just as you are
woman and girl all these years
speaking another language
as the earth does
and open your eyes
with the wall inside them
doubled
but going away
getting smaller and smaller
but don't you move
see how long it takes for me to appear there
and how old I am then
and how old I've been
if you can tell
but don't put on anything special for me
I want to see you as you are every day
as you see me
without my name

the one of you whose turn it is
to follow me like a dog
don't be the dog who's stolen something
don't be the dead dog
don't be the lost dog the sick dog
the watch dog
be the good brown dog that ran through both families
till you found me
be happy to see the back of my head
just where it is

and one of you be the sea
starting right there
older than words or water
opening into itself forward and backward
each wave lying still
with a piece of horizon in its arms
one sail going
one sail coming
two wings approaching each other
and one of you
stay still just as you are
with your door
be yesterday
be tomorrow
be today

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