

Diana Raab / *Listen to Me*

(In Response To: “Don’t Go Far Off” by Pablo Neruda)

Listen to me  
when I speak to you.  
Listen to me tell you  
that I will never leave  
what we call us.  
What I fear most  
is that you’ll leave me

in the cold of a night  
when I least expect or want it  
because ennui  
meandered through you,

and I fear: will you run from me  
when trains sleep at their stations,  
dogs bark at coyotes,  
and owls share their wisdoms?

If you leave me,  
I will turn to stone—  
as clouds pass over our house  
as they did during our fine mornings.

May you appear one more time  
at our window  
and hear me.

Diana Raab / Santa Barbara, California