

NLB Online Repository of Artistic Works

THE EXPECTATION
Cyril Wong

For permission to print, download, produce or otherwise use this work, click here:
cyril@substation.org

Note: Content layout and formatting are as received from author.

Cyril Wong. All rights reserved.

This copy is for online viewing only on the NLB Online Repository of Artistic Works and may not be printed, downloaded or reproduced in any form without prior permission from the copyright holder.

The Expectation

One day,
you may leave him
or vice versa. The possibilities
proliferate in the air
around him, then
spilling into the absence
he leaves behind.
You may lose
everything, or everything
may be taken from you.
Imagine fleeing your house
that is burning,
and your loved ones
are trapped inside, then
boarding a train with nowhere
left to go to.
For a month, maybe more,
you will not believe
you can go on.
Eventually, you do
but you will not believe it.
The evening has whittled
down to night.
You must return to him.
By now, he must
already be asleep.
You turn off the television.
You turn off all the lights
in the living room.
You stand there in the dark.
There is no such thing
as a perfect dark.
There are still the streetlamps
outside the window.
There is always
some light
seeping through.

Epilogue

Love swims
in and out of you,
in and out of you.
Afterwards, your face
like the surface
of a pool

Cyril Wong. All rights reserved.

This copy is for online viewing only on the NLB Online Repository of Artistic Works and may not be printed, downloaded or reproduced in any form without prior permission from the copyright holder.

long after it is
empty –
betraying no wound.

Cyril Wong. All rights reserved.

This copy is for online viewing only on the NLB Online Repository of Artistic Works and may not be printed, downloaded or reproduced in any form without prior permission from the copyright holder.