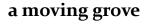


## IRYNA SHUVALOVA

b. 1986



go escape while you can go escape buy tickets for the last water train which as it subsides reveals curbs pavements the riverside

the anatomy of the sinewy city that lies
naked and unfamiliar like a man in your bed
go—escape while you can

take all your belongings everything that's yours

- split lips cut knees the cracked jar of a head from which memory slowly seeps and all you can leave just leave behind the evening lights in the windows
- 15 the beloved exposed throat of the sky the smell of the subway the lead of the river

go and don't come back have no doubts that's how it is to fall into the bottomless well of a body to throw yourself like a comb over your shoulder

- to sow yourself across a field so that a host of warriors might grow this is how the needle passes through the needle's eye this is how the forest shall come up to the walls
- and start to tremble



—Translated from the Ukrainian by Uilleam Blacker

