

IRYNA SHUVALOVA

b. 1986



a moving grove

go escape while you can go escape
buy tickets for the last water train
which as it subsides reveals
curbs pavements the riverside
5 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
10 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
20 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

25 and start to tremble

—Translated from the Ukrainian by Uilleam Blacker

2023



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