

## WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA

1923-2012



### Maybe All This (“Może to wszystko”)

Maybe all this  
is happening in some lab?  
Under one lamp by day  
and billions by night?

- 5 Maybe we're experimental generations?  
Poured from one vial to the next,  
shaken in test tubes,  
not scrutinized by eyes alone,  
each of us separately  
10 plucked up by tweezers in the end?

Or maybe it's more like this:  
No interference?  
The changes occur on their own  
according to plan?

- 15 The graph's needle slowly etches  
its predictable zigzags?

- Maybe thus far we aren't of much interest?  
The control monitors aren't usually plugged in?  
Only for wars, preferably large ones,  
20 for the odd ascent above our clump of Earth,  
for major migrations from point A to B?

—Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh and Stanisław Barańczak

1993

