

LOUISE GLÜCK

b. 1943



Telescope

There is a moment after you move your eye away
when you forget where you are
because you've been living, it seems,
somewhere else, in the silence of the night sky.

5 You've stopped being here in the world.
You're in a different place,
a place where human life has no meaning.

You're not a creature in body.
You exist as the stars exist,
10 participating in their stillness, their immensity.

Then you're in the world again.
At night, on a cold hill,
taking the telescope apart.

You realize afterward
15 not that the image is false
but the relation is false.

You see again how far away
every thing is from every other thing.

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