

## Within Hearing

Joseph Noble

from *between*

each turned around  
the other  
hands clearing  
through fingertips  
turning  
each body around  
a word  
each had not said  
on the lips  
the bodies  
in a word  
turning  
the hands  
touching each  
tried to mouth  
what was still  
on the lips  
the tongues  
turning  
around each other

in turn one  
believes for  
a moment  
each could  
touch for  
a second  
time to  
give it  
up only  
to receive  
in turn

while waiting  
word held  
back curls  
tongue to  
a sign  
inquiring

**from *breath shadow***

no reason for doing  
if among what we have done

there to breathe  
a door and say

there are moving strangers  
at the edge of the fingers

we can find no understanding  
a voice or a sand aster

are each a premise  
logical for no reason

we cannot find  
or as appear

say it, not to say it  
say it not to find any

meaning in the words  
say it not to find

any light in the dark  
nor understanding where

there's nothing to understand  
say it not to say it

which breath  
barely audible

murmur moving  
forgotten in

each silence  
no telling

you hear when  
moving say

barely answer  
found or guessed

a sign otherwise  
wandering

steps release  
turn echoing

return upon  
barely breath

silent to  
otherwise

**from *at reach***

what exactly is it  
or is it not

what you would have said  
what for light you burrow in

the air is pulling away  
the terms are ill-defined

can't recount  
and if among

or you were saying  
stand still so I can see

but the flocks turning  
through each aperture

saving  
if even  
what was intended

the words  
pulled back  
in afterthought

second guess  
was first  
in thought

holding breath's  
holding pattern  
to have and to hold



the memory puzzle  
carrying future

wanted and weaned  
with an eye to

there the hand was built  
the light its own distance

the hand that was  
as opposed to

moving singly  
turning was

and choosing upon  
voice to the touch

else as lived  
recognize the sound

prints on the air  
shivering the spine

listen to and  
listen sing