

EARTH HOUR

Before you tell them that icecaps are melting
that ecological gaps are happening
and that they can no longer afford to sit on boards or sign petitions
don't tell **them** to do something
tell them about all the times you did NOTHING
How you refused
to let the trash in the seaweed ruin your morning run
so you picked nothing up alllll the waaaay home
from Warwick Long Bay to Chaplin Beach
you said that you'd come back with gloves a bag and a crew of friends
and never did
tell them about the vows you make to me at sunset but never keep

Before you tell everyone that the revolution will not be televised
that they should buy timers for their heaters
and switch off their lights
tell them about that night
at Shelly Bay when the water was warm despite the breeze
and you dove in clothes and all
tell them what happened then
how I slowed down everything
till time and hightide were handstanding still
that night I introduced you to your heart beat
tell them how I helped you hear the universe blink
how I breathed with your lungs as my own
tell them that how every time you dive in eyes closed
you bottle up the happiness of homecoming

Before you advise or chastise or battle cry about
dying bees, plastic bags or pesticides
Apologize. Apologize to me!
For every syllable you add to my inevitable end
- apologize with deeds
Cause it seems like every blockbuster or hit tv series
has more to say about my demise than my beginning
From clones in Oblivion to zombies in World Z
Your best imaginations predict catastrophic cause and effect
But I remember teaching you how to play catch
and how to count by skipping stones across my back
I remember the time you were walking a class of kids across the park

when a bluebird swooped down near your heads
and you checked their box and found her eggs
and somehow you knew
I was just saying "Hello kids, good afternoon."
paint a picture of their smiles, their braces and missing teeth
show them how I teach

Before you go on about polluted mangroves, mutant toads and toxic loquats
Tell them about how you drive a block down the road to the Market
for bread and eggs just cause you can
just cause you can't be bothered
to put on different shoes and change your pants
Tell them how inconvenient environmentalism is
and then
Tell them about the night in November
when your mother lost her battle to cancer
Tell them how the only thing that held you together
were couplets of constellations in a winter sky
and how you laid in the grass and wailed
and cried till your eyes were fire then ash
tell them how I cradled you - with blades softened by dew
tell them how I kept your light alive
how the tree frogs became symphony
how I was the only thing that comforted you
I loved your whole family, especially that night

Remember me like I remember you
tell them all the secrets I keep
about who you love
how you hurt
and where you go to write and dream
and why you walk barefoot on me
Tell them everything

Because we have come too far to forfeit our forevers