Coming Up

Brendan James

Our father who art in a penthouse sits in his 37th floor suite And swivels to gaze down at the city he made me in He allows me to stand and solicit graffiti until He needs the land I stand on I in my darkened threshold am pawing through my pockets The receipts, the bus schedules, the matchbook phone numbers The urgent napkin poems all of which laundering has rendered Pulpy and strange, loose change and a key Ask me, go ahead, ask me, go ahead, ask me Go ahead, ask me if I care I got the answer here, I wrote it down somewhere I just gotta find it Somebody and their spray paint got too close Somebody came on too heavy Now look at me made ugly by the drooling letters I was better off alone, ain't that the way it is They don't know the first thing but you don't know that Until they take the first swing My fingers are red and swollen from the cold I'm getting bold in my old age So go ahead, try the door, it doesn't matter anymore I know the weak hearted are strong willed And we are being kept alive Until we're killed, he's up there The, the ice is clinking in his glass It's little pieces of paper I don't ask I just empty my pockets and wait It's not fate, it's just circumstance I don't fool myself with romance I just live phone number to phone number Dusting them against my thighs In the warmth of my pockets Which whisper history incessantly asking me, ?Where were you?? I lower my eyes wishing I could cry more And care less, yes it's true I was trying to love someone again I was caught caring, bearing weight

But I love this city, this state this country is too large

And whoever's in charge
They better take the elevator down
And put more than change in our cup
Or else we are coming up

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