

↓ START

M

**M:**

Let's try to sleep.

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Are you asleep?

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I can't sleep.

I'm trying.

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I've always thought

I'm okay, I'm an okay person. A normal enough person. Basically, you know, good.

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I wish I'd read more when I was younger. Or just, maybe slept with more people. Or travelled. It's going to be harder to travel now you know, with

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nothing's ending. It's the start of something. I'm young. We're young. It's exciting.

Can't tell if my eyes are open. Am I keeping you awake? Just can't stop thinking. Everything. Life. The universe. Death.

Try to picture what I'll look like. Dead. Stopped. Just another object in the room. Who'll see me like that.

What my expression will be.

When the face just relaxes it looks sort of sarcastic I think.

My dead face.

If it's going to happen, the solution to it all, the survival of mankind, it will happen in our lifetime. It has to. And we'll be alive to witness it.

When we're talking I can't take my eyes off you. You're so honest with me and it hurts sometimes but I remind myself you only say these things because you trust me. That I'm an anchor or something, I'm a nucleus to your proton, *is that right?* I think sometimes you think we're having a conversation and that I'm listening and responding but really I'm only silent because I have no idea what to say. You're like an animal, a hungry, wild animal and you're circling me and snarling and you're beautiful and exciting and you're trusting me because I'm standing still but really I'm just frozen to the spot, really I just don't know what else to do and I worry that sometimes you think that that's strength and it's not, it's not, it's just

I dreamt that the baby had been born but it was just a cloud. A little thunder cloud. Or a squirming little creature with fangs and claws and flashing eyes.

I'll take a book off the shelf, any book and you'll have turned down the pages and underlined things. Put stars in the margins. And I stare at the sentence you've highlighted. I'll reread the paragraph. I'll think what has she seen that I can't see? What is it that I don't understand?

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↑ END