

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