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Reminder

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Cover Page Footnote

Artwork by Isidora Monteparo

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By Gillian Hecht

I'm thinking about what this year has done to my humanity
 I never saw myself as frigid or unfeeling before
 Cerebral? Sure.
 Thoughtful? Often.
 Robotic? Quiescent? Never.
 yet here I sit, unsure of almost everything.
 prepared for the solitude of safety.
 well, the illusion of safety.
 When did I become afraid of the world?
 When did my doubts, even in the face of almost-certainty, become so looming?
 What happened to my humanity? To my will to fill my life with warmth and love?
 I tell you I'm afraid I'll never find it again. That my life will go on,
 eternally cold and calculating and unbearably calm.

I tell you that I need you to give me certainty. It's all I can comprehend right now.
 But you don't.
 I ask you to see me for the ounce of humanity I have left - the tears I cannot stop crying -
 yet you refuse.

If my last drop of humanity is unrecognizable, is it really still there?
 If my last drop of humanity is a tear, why do I even want it anyways?

But I find myself clinging to the tears. Rubbing them into my cheeks. Letting them stream
 into my mouth.

I feel them.

They remind me I am still feeling.

Humanity encased. In hiding.

waiting for unbounded sanctuary, absolutism;

trying to learn that absolute does not exist

trying to remember there's beauty in chaos. in platitude, too.

Who will I be when all of this is done?