

### *Preface*

These are ten consecutive poems from *Reading and Not Reading Mei-Mei Nest Berssenbrugge*. The "reading" poems all bear titles (the same ones as in Berssenbrugge's *Nest*); the "not reading" poems are untitled. The work as a whole has 15 titled poems, in the same order as in *Nest*, with untitled ones interspersed, usually in clumps as in the attached sequence. As the work's title suggests, it was written while reading—and not reading—*Nest*. The font is the same as that used in *Nest*. The titled poems—this may not need saying—are *not* reworkings of Berssenbrugge's but were "launched" (or, sigh, fledged) by them; thus the work's title is a kind of pun—while temporal (often I'd interrupt reading a poem to write one), it also means that the poems are *not* readings of, or even takes on, the poems in *Nest*.

## THE LOST RING

remembering one  
remembering the first

how is it taken  
to be  
how

mention

such story so  
such prompt

and such

in pane color  
like bread

a tile was  
man enlocked with bear

still possessed

and the pane of the tongue  
like forgetting

composed  
and a favored preposition

of the eye the i

clasp denial

a rope  
is a question

hand all

like offered

they applaud the thought  
of company  
they know,  
see

harrowous

lives of very dirt

skein of

in the faith of  
a very  
reducible vowel

this other offer  
after this pre

-echo

## HEARING

a place is a role  
lateralation

and next time

guessed a voice there  
a dressed self

theory of roller-coaster  
in place

next after  
after next after

sprawl

moon going out

when pleasing touch  
vision cannot  
sides be

why gone over  
over

who hand  
who tongue

who rock

which utter, timate space

her iteration  
her body does  
nothing stays

obliged to  
empty

only the sound stuttered

laid to  
—no,  
bare

laying bore

like when wish  
got

a wheel on its

sell me

as forgotten as a lesson  
warp  
from woof

we've

ta  
ch—

## AUDIENCE

bigged head  
with trigger opener

idiophonous serenadic torpituous

grief track

and something-drome  
or drone  
or dome  
or dom

real ord  
then

(sound of train just  
door slid so  
daily metal on itself  
suppose or night)

back:

drewable air  
inherit

awe gaps  
brows

a favorite ferment  
mouth tasting itself  
clamp and apostrophe

the nature

■

fake ache,  
felt semble

scape reps      sliver,  
droves  
aroma  
was it  
sleight of name

slight lam so  
light

apostrophe ellipsed

■

ears it is said once

gawwant gawk audio

how are you peeling

to a guffaw or so

a space

uncountably slendered

■

tym

panic

lavender

enterer flutter speed

intake

reposit

haust

gurgle

## HONEY

hiber  
hive  
haunch

like this  
the very dis  
-appear

underdome garden

this is called october  
crossed water

a sticking at a time  
hoverclature

■

lines  
line on

the heart  
the not physical one  
take hurt

■

end nearby  
takes detail into  
stretched

aroma stutters

to do with nothing

all-taking

at

■

“this poem has been written by a man who has been dead for five days”

qtd in eshleman's intro to his translation of vallejo's complete posthumous

■

“My story is about the human race in conflict with itself and nature,” Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge,  
“Audience,” Nest, New York: Kelsey St. Press, 2003

■

mystery  
of the species

medicine’s permission

unclimbable knot  
of chest  
gives what  
gives

next

point of which  
regression

out of  
or in  
to all

neatness  
uncountable

words-  
to-  
the

nearest tell  
life's end  
and a strange and

the loss dict  
ates des  
ire

they want to know why  
can be seen  
on

slake the reply world

who re  
cipher  
like lights

go when you go  
do when you  
take what  
up

in stink

the parabolous scramble

just talked to

it was a  
not traceable

a trial  
shows the dog

the heart  
fractures at the given

and they leave  
and a fox stops its appearance

the wrong sense  
or tense

and this thing about sand  
wish

controlled random its  
dictates

unembraced they ran  
tree from

a funny punctuation

sorrow  
this or that all that

that all that

one almost close  
by law

they have homes  
approximates  
math that won't do

waits  
it all  
come

one or  
one one

## SAFETY

born tuit  
love of pronouns

out of danger  
commodity traitor

blatant ever

atonement

unmade dirt  
deliveries

tells fall  
like dropped  
or a curtain to see by

parrot world  
would have believe

the word wold

it is taken it cannot  
a fever  
more than nare

crawl splice

■

resurmountable choice  
wrinkle  
davit charm  
smold urgeant  
go went  
calm lack

tongue candles adherent tone  
flagger cusp scope  
how piffle  
shanked alm

■

abbreviations to sell  
the very

income pavement

drear file  
there is this route