

When I say I'm tired

Rest [*rest*] | the remaining part | the bee in the conservatory seeking nectar from the houseplants | a settling | a wave hesitating on | the beach | an interval of silence | the *oh I'm tired too* | from the writing group | *juggling work and writing is so tiring* | I mean tired as in it took my daily energy to transfer from my bed to my wheelchair | or drag my paralysed legs up the twenty stairs to | bed | rest from old English *league* or *mile* | the distance after which one resets | tired as leatherbacks swimming for one hundred million years | it's a lie they rest retracted into their shells | I'm not talking to non-disabled writers about fatigue again | at rest | the fallen magnolia flowers I gathered as a kid and placed in bowls of water on the table until they bled | away

Enough [*ih-nuhf*] | are you Disabled enough? | as in the man waiting by the blue badge bay to say *this is a Disabled bay* | *they do check blue badges here* | *is it valid?* | he sees my wheelchair with an | *oh* | puts his window back up | sea grass ripped from the seabed by an anchor | the Department for Work and Pension's fortnightly calls to ask how I've achieved their | goal | *you sat up this week?* | *good* | *you have met your work-related goal* | *you are on track for employment and may receive your* | *£292 for the month* | *but you know you can work lying down?* | dahlias blooming flames before | the frost came | my legs do not need fixing | they are as ornamental as an | orchid's | petals

Adapt [*uh-dapt*] | a young house martin learning to leap into | flight | a biological process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited | to its environment | ghost pipes growing in dark forests who cannot reach | the sun | have no chlorophyll in their | bodies | yet on they bloom | the adapted car I would wheel into and drive to the top of Blorenge to breathe with the | mountain *oh* | *wait you don't work or study 12.5 hours a week?* | *no* | *writing doesn't count as work* | *you're not eligible* | *for a vehicle* | a butterfly fresh from its chrysalid drying out its | wings