

# Forces

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## Always Now

Joani Reese

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**Sunset at the Chapel**

Braxton Garms

**Always Now**

Joani Reese

Three years spool out a never-ending now.  
 Blue hours fillet skin, fishhooks of steel peel  
 day that slides from day, safe weave unbound.  
 Songs wait, unsung, we're ever more undone.  
 Long evenings pass, unchanged, forgot, erased;  
 slipping in slo-mo, friendships falter, fail.

Words suppurate, unaided, like the wound  
 one self-inflicts to stop feeling alone.  
 Fatigue bubbles like froth over each night.  
 (contagion plays no favorites, left or right)  
 Insomnia's a bum bereft of booze, and 3 a.m.  
 incarnates every loss. Reasons for speech grow  
 frail under moonrise that calls the tide inside  
 me ever home.