A GREAT PAIN IS COMING

Open your amoeba

A column of light

Older than waves

Or clothes at the bus stop

You made

A barricade, words rolled

From the binary

You knew you would

Die with or without love

GETTING ENOUGH SOMEWHERE

Today I was driven

To protect your life

I swept our small room

After the argument

Stylish blackout curtains

Spider plant babies

Central air

BIG DRINKER

Where is my colander

You keep mentioning

Your wife

My spice collection

I brought my orgasm

Us in the tender

River the trees

See everything

I DON'T WANT MY LIFE

To flap at the edge of time

I've outgrown lying

Put me in the lake's velvet arms

Fall me mute through

I AM NOT GOING TO SLEEP ON YOUR FUTON

I am skunk-spraying my -ness
All over this city
I miss every house every person I've loved
Has left
The hanging light
How my boobs were there

IN THIS NEO-EMPATHIC ERA

The sharpest shard

Sleeps in the softest Hey

I still have relatives

Who grew food

Troublemaker

Wanting all that

Moon on you

I WANTED TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH

To take care of something

A clump of moss

An angle, rotating

When I saw you at the party

I thought of my mom, not sleeping

The way

A mountain gets stitched with paths

ALMOST EVERYONE WILL TRY

To take your power

I don't want my children

To hide in the sugar grasses

My heart takes up

My entire body

Thank you to everyone

Who left

Thank you to everyone

Who didn't

EMILY KENDAL FREY

Emily Kendal Frey is the author of *The Grief Performance* and *Sorrow Arrow*. She lives in Portland, Oregon, where she is a teacher and therapist.