

It's radio that testifies to our existence
Our joy and our presence in space and the atmosphere
Radio waves and their message belong to the fearless
To those who dance on the winds of history

*From “Dance” by Serhiy Zhadan
translated into English by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps
with Anthony Coleman*

If I could only live in a city that is not afraid when it gets sleepy
A city strong, so unafraid to show its bravery
So, it can wake, wake up like children, just like they do every day
So very hungry, so very ready, dancing, dancing, always growing stronger.

The future is waiting for us, and it's burning inside me
A life and a past, an echo of time and history.
I believe that someday, maybe someone will return
And that no one in this city will be lost or forgotten.

*From “If I could only live in a city” by Serhiy Zhadan
translated into English by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps
with Anthony Coleman*

Half a year ago everything was totally different.
Half a year ago everyone was different.
No one was afraid of stars falling
over the reservoir.
No one paid attention to the smoke
that rose through cracks in the dark ground.

*From “Rhinoceros” by Serhiy Zhadan
translated into English by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps*

When so much is taken away
something is always given in return.
Something useful, like the experience of sudden parting.
Where else could you learn about
how suddenly the thread can break,
how suddenly the confused heart can stop.
Pain.
Pain and hope can return your lost sense of this world.
Give life to your essential being, give it meaning.
Pain and hope which you never expected,
never talked about at family dinners.
Where else can you hear this voice from the forest
frightened by fire, who else can
focus your sight, tune it
like a grand piano, so that your eye won't go flat,
so you recognize the shadowy beast
in the middle of the field

*From “When so much is taken away” by Serhiy Zhadan
translated into English by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps*