
34°03'58" N, 118°14'18" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

IN A BED.

D. told me he'd just woken up from a dream. I was in it. He said it was the sort of dream where we were the heroes of the story.

I couldn't remember what I had dreamt.

36°58'36" N, 122°01'49" W

Santa Cruz, CA

WINTER

2014

IN A SECOND HAND STORE.

We bought clothes by the pound. People were sneezing, bending over huge containers filled with pants, shirts, sweaters and shoes. Some of the other shoppers were wearing facemasks to protect themselves from the dust.

I bought a turquoise silk and wool top with white buttons. Outside the store I put it on. The top had a hole right next to my left nipple. I was not wearing anything underneath it, and stuck a finger through the hole.

34°09'16" N, 118°08'16" W

Pasadena, CA

WINTER

2014

ON A STREET.

'When I was a child.'

He said.

'One of my favorite things to do was to step on people's feet. When they looked down at me I would very politely apologize. 'I am sorry sir', I would say. Or 'I am sorry madam'.'

I laughed.

'The adults were always impressed by my polite manners.'

33°59'00" N, 118°28'17" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

ON THE ROAD.

The gift he gave me was not wrapped, but put in a box covered with light green fabric. Before I had the chance to take a close look at it, I forgot it in the door of a car we did not return to.



33°59'00" N, 118°28'17" W
Lost object.

34°03'58" N, 118°14'18" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

IN CHINATOWN.

'This neighborhood.'

L. said.

'Was originally built as a movie set.'

'Really?'

I asked.

'Yes.'

I touched the side of a building.

'Then, the Chinese liked it so much that they moved in.'

I looked around me. There were no people on the street. In a fountain I could see a goldfish swimming. Next to it there were coins people had thrown into the water while making wishes.

34°03'58" N, 118°14'18" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

IN A BED.

He leaned over and kissed me. Then he pulled back and excused his morning breath. Before I could catch him he was already on his feet. We did not kiss again.

35°51'55" N, 119°50'11" W

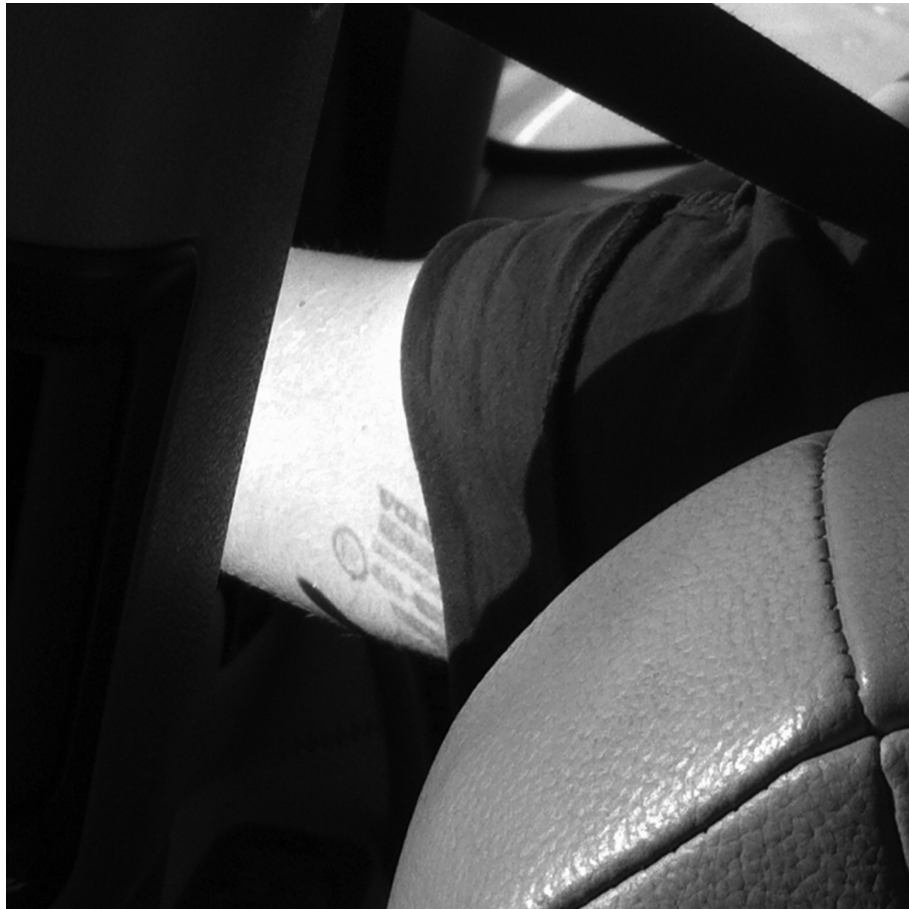
I-5, CA

WINTER

2014

ON THE FREEWAY.

As we were driving, the logo on the window of the car moved as a shadow across the cabin from one side to the other. Sometimes it would be visible, like when it hit the skin of our bodies. Other times it would hit a surface that made its words impossible to distinguish.



35°51'55" N 119°50'11" W
Shadow.

36°58'36" N, 122°01'49" W

Santa Cruz, CA

WINTER

2014

IN A LIVING ROOM.

During the night, the inflatable mattress I was sleeping on lost air. When morning came, I was lying in a deep cave. My right shoulder was touching the cold living room floor.

That same evening, the tortoise in the garden, who if living to the average age of its species would outlive all of us, escaped.

36°42'17" N, 120°51'35" W

Mercy Hot Springs, CA

WINTER

2014

IN THE MOUNTAINS.

At the end of the dirt road there was a sign saying 'Do Not Enter'. We stopped the car and walked past the sign. Small shrines were set up burning incense to Buddhist deities. A man wearing slippers greeted us and asked if we had not seen the sign.

'No.'

Said J.

'I am going to have to ask you to leave.'

The man continued.

We walked the same way back as we had entered.

'This is California.'

D. said.

'When you reach the end of the road there is a Buddhist temple.'

'And in the temple.'

I added.

'There is a man asking you to leave.'

34°06'51" N, 118°20'45" W

Hollywood Hills, CA

WINTER

2014

IN HOLLYWOOD HILLS.

We were standing at the edge of a cliff looking down on the Los Angeles valley. Behind us a swimming pool illuminated the garden with a turquoise light. Above the city, helicopters and drones were swarming.

Driving home we got stuck on the freeway. The traffic was not moving. Above us the same helicopters we had seen from the hills were circling. On a parallel road we saw dozens of police cars.

We called up our friends saying we would be late.

'We're not home.'

They answered.

'We're blocking the freeway.'

34°03'23" N, 118°14'11" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

AT UNION STATION.

I was walking slowly by the police cars, listening in on the officers' conversations.

'My shield is nicer than your shield.'

One officer said to the other. I turned around and looked at him. He was looking at his colleague.

'Look, it does not yet have any scratches.'

36°43'17" N, 120°52'04" W

Little Panoche Rd, CA

WINTER

2014

IN A VOLVO.

We had folded down the back seats of the car and rolled out blankets to cover up the uneven surface of the trunk. I was laying close to the door to be able to see the sky through the window. Above us the moon was shining. I had just seen a shooting star. D. lay curled up next to me.

'You are the large spoon.'

He said.

'If anything happens then I am protected.'

34°02'50" N, 118°15'25" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

DOWNTOWN.

As we were walking on an empty street a row of police cars passed by us. In every car there were 2 or more police officers. D. was filming them with his camera. I was merely counting.

'1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21.
22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27.'

I thought of the number of protesters my friends said were blocking the freeway the night before.

36°58'36" N, 122°01'49" W

Santa Cruz, CA

[1 / 2]

WINTER

2014

IN AN ABANDONED MODERNIST BUILDING.

We were having a sleepover. S. was sitting up rolling a joint. The rest of us were laying on blankets on the floor. We had already played truth or dare. S. had suggested we'd tell ghost stories. None of us were saying anything. After taking the first puff of the joint, and passing it on to me, S. started talking.

'When I was a child.'

She said.

'I had two beanie babies. Both of them had little backpacks. They were identical.'

'What color were they?'

I asked.

'Red velvet.'

She answered.

'Cool.'

I said.

'Then one morning, I woke up and there were 3 beanie babies with little backpacks.'

'No.'

'Yes.'

'No.'

'I would have been ok if it was just another beanie baby. But this beanie baby was carrying the exact same backpack as the others.'

'No.'

'Yes.'

'No.'

36°57'10" N, 122°02'22" W

Santa Cruz

WINTER

2014

ON A BEACH.

We were all wet when we sat down on the towels and blankets we'd brought with us. One had prints of E.T. on a bike. I was bleeding from the bone that protrudes above my hip.

'What happened?'

B. asked me.

'Oh, I was just thrown into the sand by the waves.'

I answered.

'Did this not happen to you?'

They all looked at me.

'No. We stay on our feet.'

36°43'17" N, 120°52'04" W

Near Little Panoche Rd, CA

WINTER

2014

IN THE MOUNTAINS.

C. was wearing a green ranger jacket. Ever since buying it, we had encouraged him to walk in front of us, like a leader of a group. As we reached the top of the highest hill in the area he turned around. He would like to meditate, he said. We all sat down. Among the high bushes and burned down trees we could only see the top of his head. As the sun set, his sand colored hair blended into the colors of the landscape.



35°51'55" N 119°50'11" W

Left hand.

37°46'15" N, 122°27'11" W

San Francisco, CA

WINTER

2014

IN A LIVING ROOM.

He asked me if he could kiss me. I blushed, and said that I would be leaving the next day. Then he suggested that we play Scrabble instead.

I tried to spell other words, but I was losing, and I had the right letters for 'romance' and 'swoon'.

37°46'15" N, 122°27'11" W

San Francisco, CA

WINTER

2014

IN AN E-MAIL.

'Where are you hiding?'

She wrote me.

'In a closet.'

I answered.

'When will I see you again?'

47°37'36" N, 122°20'52" W

Seattle, WA

WINTER

2014

AT A CAFE.

A girl was walking in front of her parents and an older sibling carrying a small plastic air shuttle on an outstretched arm. As they entered the café I was sitting in, she had to put the air shuttle in her pocket, needing both hands to push the door open.

33°58'32" N, 118°27'57" W

Los Angeles, CA

WINTER

2014

AT A BEACH.

We hesitated when undressing, unsure if one were allowed to be naked at a public beach. Entering the ocean it was already so dark that our bodies disappeared as soon as they were covered by water. All we could see were each others heads.