

A black and white photograph of a textured wall, possibly stucco or plaster. A bright, vertical light beam illuminates a portion of the wall, creating a strong contrast with the surrounding shadows. The texture of the wall is clearly visible, with small pits and ridges. The overall mood is dramatic and mysterious.

# Only Whispers

Gabriel Bates



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Yavanika Press



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Cover photo: Johannes S. H. Bjerg

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Also by Gabriel Bates:

*Taking Flight* (Misfitbooks Press, 2017)

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/gabriel-bates/taking-flight/paperback/product-23338506.html>

*This Space Between Us* (Alien Buddha Press, 2018)

[www.amazon.com/dp/1986603741/ref=tsm\\_1\\_fb\\_lk](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1986603741/ref=tsm_1_fb_lk)

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darkest night  
does anything happen  
if I don't  
experience it  
happening?

detaching from all this floater in my eye

alone in the crowd  
not one of them  
knows I write poetry

disappearing  
everywhere I go  
ghost moon

coming home  
to no new messages  
lingering rain

old sitcoms  
I cringe at the laughter  
of dead people

cacophony of crows

another editor  
tells me  
what my poem means

burnt fields  
so much we take  
for granted



woodsmoke  
sometimes I miss myself

Lambrusco  
I give her my sacrament

I wonder  
what life was like  
for Adam  
before he gave up  
his rib for Eve

eye of the storm  
an old pain  
swells in my chest

only whispers

after our  
heated argument

blowing the ashes  
of a cigarette  
into my lap

knowing that when I walk  
into the room  
she will be reminded  
of her father  
I close the door

self-medication  
the mirror breaks  
eye contact

withdrawal I hold her as she used to



incense haze  
finding each other  
through the night

morning light  
our peacoats hanging  
side by side

daydreaming home like no place is there

goldfish bowl  
does his world differ  
from ours?

Gabriel Bates

*to live is to swim  
toward the shimmer*

*Gunnar Bates*





Gabriel Bates is a contemporary poet living in southeast Kansas. His work has appeared in several publications, online and in print. For more information, click [here](#).