

untitled 1

Taqralik Partridge

even the ones who are never sure about anything
even the ones who are super quiet
even the consultants
even the academics
even the ones with six figure salaries
even the poorest ones
even the single mothers - especially the single mothers
even the ones who 'normally don't like to get involved'
even the ones who thought they had turned their backs
even the guys who say insulting things and the women in their lives are never sure if they should turn their backs
even the ones who were stolen from their mothers - especially the ones who were stolen from their mothers
even the lawyers
even the doctors
even the government workers
even the ones who agreed that 'it's just a costume'
even the ones who say 'it's just a sports team'
even the ones who insist 'everyone should just calm down'
even the ones who prefer to look on the bright side
even the ones who always see the downside
even the ones who know they will lose friends, lose family
even the ones who have lost family - especially the ones who have lost family
even the dancers
even the poets
even the politicians
even the ones who live far up north
even the ones who say 'nobody owes you anything'
even the ones who were traveling when they found out

even the ones who were on stage
even the ones on their honeymoon
even the ones with the flu
even the ones with mostly white friends
even the ones with no children
even the ones who are very young
even his sisters in Standing Rock
even a DJ from Greenland
even Martin Luther King junior's daughter
even the ones who send money to tv preachers
even the ones who are just clinging to their own lives - especially the ones who are just clinging to their own lives
even the ones who couldn't bring themselves to say anything about Barbara, or Cindy, or Loretta, or Tina, or Savanna, or Anna
Mae, or Annie, or Lucy, or Mary Papatsie
even the radio personalities
even the reporters
even the ones who think that nobody listens
even the ones who are just trying to be 'regular Canadians'
even the museum curators
even the hunters
even the single mothers - especially the single mothers
even the singers
even the seamstresses
even the 'recently retired and tired of it all' ones
even the ones who only recently found their connection
even the ones whose only connection to any of this is their partner, or their child, or neighbour, or co-worker, or simple
recognition of common humanity
even the ones who can only shake their heads
even the ones who can only wring their hands
even the ones who just can't

all of them, all of them
everyone
drew back their heads, wide-eyed,
in pain,
and in fear,
and in dismay
and in anger
but not
no, not
in disbelief
because what is known, does not require believing or not believing