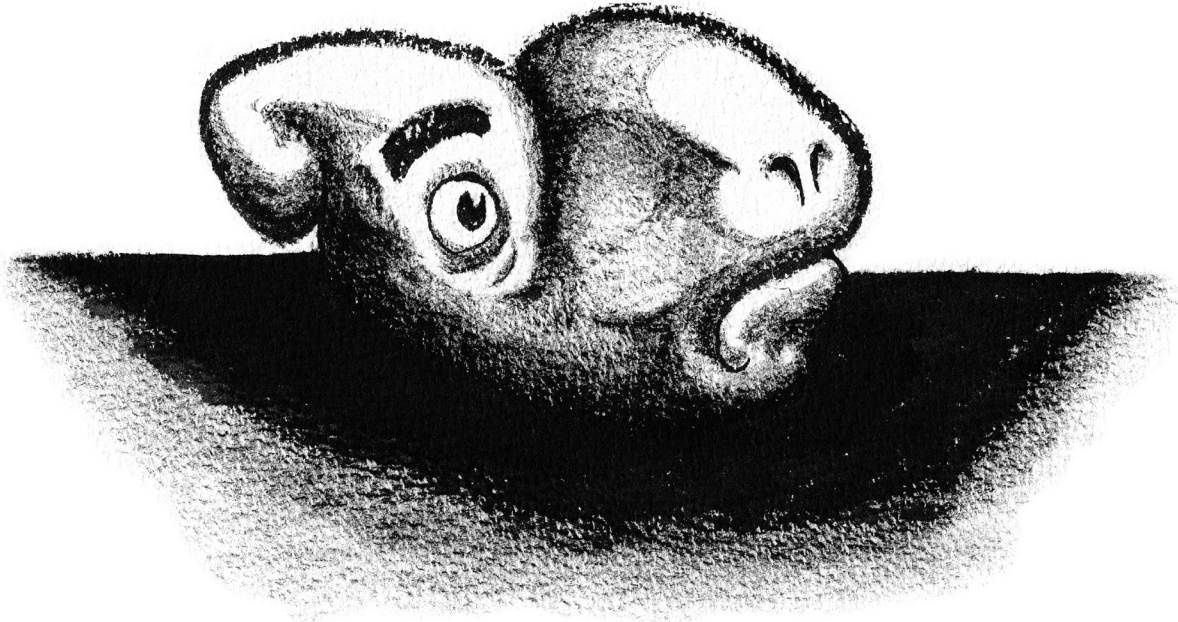


LEST WE FORGET TO RUPTURE THE EPHIPHANIC SAPPHIRE

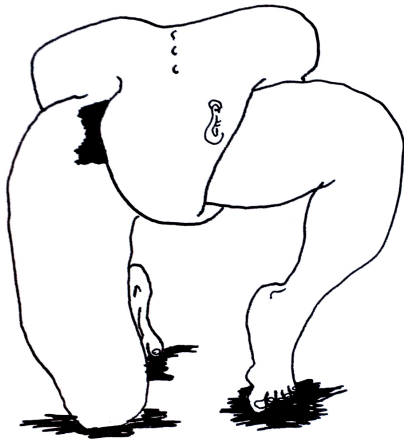
Jared Daniel Fagen



To say. To write. To write the say. To braid. To be braided. To braid effulgence. To stave. To reciprocate. To imitate the horizon's blade. To wander. To throw. To be. Thrown. To take rest upon a throne. To fondle the miracle. To tiptoe the besieged palace. To tether tears and laughter. To crown expiration. To hush the mend. To hear instruction. To dishevel. To injure resource. To inquire. To ask. Assaulting. To hunt. To hunt yearly. Being. To breach. To crave. To hunger. To acquiesce. To contort. To falter. To careen. To stammer arabesque. To gasp for air. To cross a day from the calendar. To sip nightly in the temperate gale. To pine. To ache. To idle. To lull. To withstand. To withhold. To italicize every lament. To gorge the moment. Belonging to yesterday. To walk. To meander. To ravage. To squander. To cleave. To give permission to brittle Styrofoam. To wince. To delay. To obfuscate. To rent lifelong stars. To petition. To appeal. To the mercy of elegy. To wave. To awaken the accident. To anticipate arrivals. To flag a passing vehicle. To speak another's kindness. To speak the kindness you couldn't find yourself. Alone. To foster. To alchemize. To boil cow bones. To suck on a stone. Lest we forget briefly the famine. To indict. To bed squalor. To throw pyro. To scrawl. To weave articulation. To cast the fog. To exert the avalanche. To appraise vehemence. To heat synapse. To excess. To forge the maelstrom. To spiral. To sieve oneiric immanence. To scorn the transcendental field. To impair. To deprive the vision. To braise glimpses. To shear memory. To shepherd the lacerated image. To tease a decadent touch. To tempt stateless majesty. To plunge. To plummet. To pitch. To capsiz. To sink the vessel. To plunder. To

anguish sierras. To corrupt your prosaic vista. Empirically. To serenade the bruise. Dialectically. To persist. Detrimentially. To unbound utmost extents. To continue the strain. To adopt a name. To wince at each syllable. To pronounce it strangely. To abandon the strangeness for shame. To lean. To linger. To renounce the preamble. To inhabit. To be. Inhabited. To invert the antithesis. To lash at the palindrome. To lace the embers. To orphan the testimony. To betray baritone screams. To dance belligerent catacombs. To beg phosphorus. To collect pondered daylilies. To arrange the shorn pulpit. To lay. To lie. A place to rest your head. To close your eyes. To cover your ears. To hedge your stare. To climb inside. To imbed. To defer. To dally. To delay. To pace the instant. To seize a shiver. To design your rift. To intimate solitude. To torch. To be torched. To gallivant the flame. To tire. To shatter. Breathlessly. Tremendously. To approximate. To rile the swarm. To be neighbor to its heart. To surge with disaster. To miss the point. To keep missing. To dismantle. To unstring the action. Recklessly. To dismay. To bewilder duration. To distress élan vital. To hydrate paranoia. To relapse. To impoverish. To dress in a veil of sand. To apprehend the moth. To endure immobility. To sing as the shipwreck sings. Singeing. To thwart. To imperil. To actualize. To repeat. Feverishly. To remember the moment without cease. To memorize the moment remembrance is lost. To approach. To hesitate. To flee. From yourself. Toward yourself. Abandoned. To encounter the onslaught. To embrace the incursion. To astonish the salvo. To turn back a simpler person. To sway. To evince. To witness. To conspire. To corroborate the fugitive voyage. To pillage the existential. To

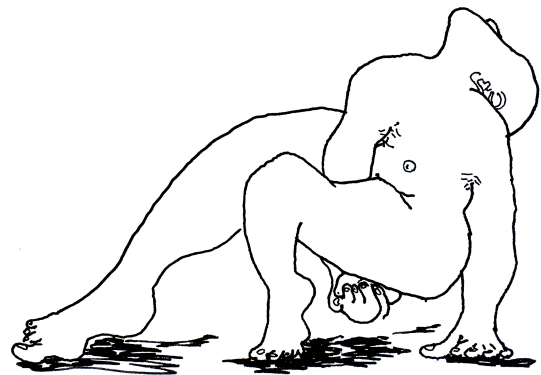
unfold the obituary notice. To see. To lose. To bear. At last. To surrender. To make art of caresses. To trespass. To traipse the loveless paradise. To trace your absence from it. To baffle loved ones. To disappear. To dematerialize. To nourish the circling vulture. To feed figs to the ravens. To empty every tense. To hold the universe in contempt. To tremble. To rot in the autumn foliage. To settle into its



windless soliloquy. To possess. To riot. To administer. To grave-rob. To notarize the sale of antlers. To smear ash across flesh. Necessarily the place the soul is saved. To shut yourself from the skyline. To wear tomorrow a tired expression. To know that tomorrow is only a flaw

of perception. Deceasing. To be thousands of shadows. To be merely one of those shadows. Indeterminately. To steady. To sprint. To ascertain. To squirm. To forsake. To smirk. Wearily. To practice bad faith. To present your forehead to a tyrant. To diagnose. To urge anatomy. To coerce the operation. To resist recovery. To put an end to research. To repose the mannequin. To lease. To decipher. To negotiate. To misread. To forge the contract. To misplace. To collapse. To cave in. To contradict. To spurn. To burst. To bleed. To blaspheme. To reach. To tumble down the summit. To hurl. To scatter. To wink. Bright with animosity. To inaugurate. To trap. To expire. To magnify every murmur. To dream you have been living. To thaw. To foam. To loiter. To manifest. To unleash. To toss the plot. To descend into ambivalence. To wade. To submerge. To swim as if you had been living. To drown. To drag the Acheron. To steal ore from the gaze. To return to the world just as decrepit. To bribe a jury. To solemnly swear. To be sworn. To contaminate. To cultivate. To store. A low tide. An eroding shore. A little madness. To salivate. To attend. To excavate the phenomena. To implore. To finger the fragile mouth. To treasure parched lips. To breathe back into nothingness. To ruin silence with your affections. To thrum the harp of dying. To fade once more. To recite Éluard. Desnos. Jarnot. Joron. Lamantia. Penrose. Mansour. At your demise. To spoil. To flaw. To ricochet. To atomize. To slander. To mutter. To defeat. Utterly. To tally. To toll the intervals. To barter at the blood bank. To fabricate seismic weapons. To fashion ballistic tendrils. To fire nerve gas. To assemble. To amass. To muss. Tearfully. To fracture the hands. To shrink the dark shapes of the epistemic clock. To elude sleep washing over you. To splinter. To stray. To snap. To snag. To stumble forth. To clutch your adversaries. Formidably and tenderly. To parole the huntress. To thresh. To quell. Want of a solution. Verifiable spills. To spill. And to stain. Like radiant plumes. Spilling. To grace. To be. Posthumous. To be an overcast of fumes. To stifle. To suffocate. To shroud. To come to grief. To dwell. In fog

and screams. The vulnerable artform. To wield the catastrophe. To bathe in séance. To emit the scramble. To curse the way you've looked. To be a student of waves. To court the ocean's undulation. For you'll again soon be swept away. And coarsen. To retire. To jolt. To writhe. To wane. To wither. To weaken. To whittle. Down to dust. To bemoan. To malign. To maim your mind. To hijack halcyon ambiance. To maneuver the swells. To slur the memoir. To concoct. To weld your cell. To guffaw. To scoff. To vitiate. To mine inebriated jewels. To fall for the replica. To cradle sepia. To burn wayward. To default. To yield. To drain. Counting. The limit. The lessening condition. To weep. To sob gleefully. To slip from the precipice. To saunter endless script. To rebuke. To refuse. To reissue. To cauterize. To circumnavigate. To cherish. To strand. To scorch. To prove your humanity. By your implosives. To bereave. Diligently. The all too human. To smoke. To imbibe. To tailor the oblong distance. To audit the vaporizing subject. To laud the faint acquisition. To spellbind the monsoon. To pulse emerald arteries. To gift the venomous souvenir. To pour promised futures. Wasting onto blazing asphalt. To concede to evaporation. Rebutting with uproar. To tear. To scurry. To trip. To pant. For forgiveness. To not forget. To forget nonetheless. To feign. To disparage circumstance. To lance. To pierce. To puncture. Fiercely. To embellish. To localize infinity. To incise vermouth aromas. To abscond. To adorn the frigid sanctuary. Biting. To kill time at the café. To overstay your welcome. To mishandle the mirage. To quiver. Like the birds of a squall. To masticate the mirror. To askew the reflection. To evade the search party. To lead narcs astray. Nearly. To remain. To reside in preludes. Each the same prelude. Contingently. To twitch. Like god on his ottoman. Restlessly. To console. To temper. To tame the tempo. To ostracize the technique. To fret. To fray. To operate inoperative sense. To dilate the aperture. To sliver. To birth. To be. To thirst. To quake. To summon delirium. To arraign. To sin the light through palm trees. To pressure the canopy. To drink rain. To borrow the earth. To till. To toil. To beckon. Burying. To conjure. To write. To say. To say the poem. To autograph the wail. To rupture the epiphanic sapphire. Saying the poem. Defenselessly.



■ Jared Daniel Fagen is the author of *The Animal of Existence* (Black Square Editions, 2022), and the editor and publisher of Black Sun Lit.

Drawings by Kit Schluter:
 "The Thinker" & "Study of the Ear"
