

2019

All the Walls Between Them

Ryan Van Lenning
Wild Nature Heart

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Recommended Citation

Van Lenning, Ryan (2019) "All the Walls Between Them," *Toyon Literary Magazine*: Vol. 65 : Iss. 1 , Article 29.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/toyon/vol65/iss1/29>

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And All The Walls Between Them

Ryan Van Lenning

W|h|a|t i|f | a||l| | o|f | t|h|e|s|e | l|e|t|t|e|r|s |
h|a|d | w|a||l|l|s | b|e|t|w|e|e|n |t|h|e|m?

h|o|w | d|i|f|f|i|c|u||t | w|o|u||d | i|t |
b|e | f|o|r | t|h|e|m |
t|o | c|o|m|e | t|o|g|e|t|h|e|r |

a|n|d | f|o|r|m | t|h|e | w|o|r|d|s |
t|h|e|y | l|o|v|e?

Or if th smllst lttrs wr sprtd
from th Biggr Words

|||||||||e a e e e e a a e e e !|||||||||
|||||||||

How hard would it be
for whole poems to come into being
when they moved from one place to the other

without the vowels
who just want to play?

Would they be outlawed
for threatening a new way
of living together?

Winner of the Jodi Stutz Award for Poetry

What Wif Wone Wletter Wbelieved
Wit Was Wsuperior Wto Wall Wthe Wothers
Wand Wdidn't Weven Wnotice
Wit Wstarted Wevery Word?

And imagine if some [words]
were put in [boxes]and {cages} for random traits
like how many {syllables}
or what {alphabet} they're from
or what they {rhymed} with

or didn't rhyme with
like cash or white—
words like right would be alright
but words like justice and color
just might be
left out altogether

and what if s-me letters
were simply n-t all-wed t- exist
because -f the c-l-r
-f their s-und
and simply sh-t -n sight?

What kind of language would that be?