

better its lost better lost

a very short novel

by

lindsay vickery



lindsay vickery t e X t s
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handmade and gaffered signed limited first edition
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Perth

1 a car moving a car moving
and trees greener than
they are now a side shot
the window [trees reflected]
a black car they don't make
anymore perhaps not

2 the room full so rich wood
a spinet some sort of key-
board [must have written
this down somewhere] can't
find it now [what other
details?] the lights are off

3 the car again at the window
that same face never leaving
holding onto the window the
trees as they move past holding
on circling knowing its gone

4 against the glass two
figures there and above the
room moving the trees here
again lost drifting under
drifts there will never be
a moment as full as this

5 in it knowing never as full
as this there looking
backwards now knowing its
just a matter no matter
the blind man: speak
before you shake his hand

6 holding on pressing the
trees trying to remain in
the same place in the same
point the room: goodbye in
the room old furniture
tell him you're here

7 she says: do you feel that
we will meet again? [to his
shaking yes]: then we will
everything means something
else a message I'm sending
you without knowing

8 sending you years from now
wash out washed over painted
over does it say can it be
a voice imperfectly rendered
imperfectly reproduced

9 every second more mistakes
why not there how forward
how not there here here
always failing listen or
understand can't make out
the words still

10 still still everything
then the sound of an engine
trees passing again from
outside its coasting
don't surprise him in the
black other fingers
against the sky

11 numbers decreasing on the
signs [increasing looking
back] left it somewhere is
there mean't to be a purpose
to that better its lost
better lost

l i n d s a y v i c k e r y
was born in Subiaco Western
Australia. Best known as a composer
and performer, he has recently
brought his closeted writing aspira-
tions into the public arena through
the libretto adaption of Robbe-
Grillet's **Djinn** for the opera
Rendez-vous and texts for several
song cycles including [**descent of the
celestial monkey wrench**] described by
Robert Curry in **The Australian** as com-
municating 'in a language that is at
once accessible and personal. With
utmost sincerity of expression it
explores a gamut of emotions, often
close to the bone but never maudlin.'



better its lost better lost is the last is of **three very short
novels** exploring obsessive memories and their
relationship to language.

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layout and illustrations Lindsay Vickery

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