

To Myself

By Franz Wright

You are riding the bus again
burrowing into the blackness of Interstate 80,
the sole passenger

with an overhead light on.
And I am with you.
I'm the interminable fields you can't see,

the little lights off in the distance
(in one of those rooms we are
living) and I am the rain

and the others all
around you, and the loneliness you love,
and the universe that loves you specifically, maybe,

and the catastrophic dawn,
the nicotine crawling on your skin—
and when you begin

to cough I won't cover my face,
and if you vomit this time I will hold you:
everything's going to be fine

I will whisper.
It won't always be like this.
I am going to buy you a sandwich.

Franz Wright, "To Myself" from *Ill Lit: Selected and New Poems*. Copyright © 1998 by Franz Wright. Reprinted with the permission of Oberlin College Press.

Source: *Ill Lit: Selected and New Poems* (Oberlin College Press, 1998)