

Mary Mary

BLACK, KARLA; BAD THING/GOOD THINGS, 2005 - 2008

Bad Thing

Lying on her side on the floor she stared at a cup. She thought about what had happened, and how it existed in the world now like an unchangeable and definite solid.

To begin with there had been no words, only the staring and a feeling that what had happened actually was the cup. By looking at it she got to know it. The cup could not be ignored or denied because there it was.

She eventually realised that if the bad thing that had happened had edges and could be looked at, then it must be separate from her and she must, therefore, be able to get away from it. She kept lying there looking, not used to it enough yet to leave it.

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Good Things

Grandma's less precious possessions were often offered out as presents. She would separate the things she didn't mind giving away from the things she wanted to keep and ask, "What about this?", or, "Would you like to have that?" Sometimes, the grandchildren secretly wanted the really good things; those, they knew, Grandma still wanted too. But mostly they were happy with what was given.