

The following is an excerpt from my novel in progress

ALL MY LOVES

The sky is remarkable today. All v's over there a wave of them wide and striping the sky with their jagged pattern. I think like a sailor cold winter sky in the west. We're under the ocean here not on top of it. My head feels strangely cool and suddenly I see my dog down there at my feet but she's tiny really really tiny. She looks alarmed. I can see her black beady eyes they look that way from here but they're honey honey colored. Why am I so far away. The pointed tree on the horizon is like a cone at my toes. I can step on it and smash it I lift my foot over it and it's circled by a shadow blue in the day. It's still early. Time hasn't changed. The club house near where I park looks like a toy and the machine shop next door equally adorable. My truck dinky. I lean downward. I pick it up. My dog looks really scared now. I put it down but smash a fence inadvertently and happily no one's around this morning. What could they do. I'm huge. I want to comfort my dog now so I pick her up. She understands. She's a tiny dog in the palm of my hands. I smile at her and our feeling is the same and she flips on her back and kicks her legs

in the air while I'm still cupping her and I put my fingertip ever so gently on her belly and she looks a tiny bit scared I can't really see it her face is so small but I feel it. We feel the same. Okay I think let's go home. I can't open the tiny truck my hands are so large because she usually likes some water after our walks but I figure there's gotta be a way when we get home. So I keep her like this in my hand. This is really not a walk. I'll figure that out later. She needs to run. Okay so I pick up the truck and tuck it under my arm and with my dog in my hand I begin to walk home. There's horses at the stable after the park that's after the golf course and I'm usually very wary when we approach the pond on the border of all that. Once she gets near the horses that's a lost case. I can spend hours chasing her. Hey! I have a great idea. I am better than a plane. I think about the time she ran away on the ranch lands two years ago. Time is round. I swing my finger in the air thinking about it. You know radio is a circle that's all it means. I feel sad about radio being too big for my truck to be inside listening to it. Figure that out too. Now I see a plus. I set the tiny dog down in clear sight of the horses. She looks up at me puzzled since we both know what she's going to do. She runs wildly towards the horses and I laugh. The horses look up. What's that weird sound. Hwuh they say looking up but aren't interested at all. My dog begins to nuzzle with them. Slowly the horses start

doing their thing. There are three. The one in the middle of the yard moves a little and stands hesitantly in the center a while. The reddish one is nose to nose with my puppy. She's got this thing my dog does. She likes bulls, cows and horses. She kind of likes goats but large is what she's all about. When I first got here I was charmed that the vet's card said small animal doctor. It was a scale thing here I realized. Somebody else does the cattle and horses. Somebody else does lambs. I don't know if there are any sheep around here. I realize I can pop her right inside the horse's yard because I can easily get her out. I do that and initially she freezes. What now. The horse that was her friend a minute before seems more interested in me suddenly and stands still staring. I can feel the sky behind me. I'm impressive. The shy horse in the middle comes galloping towards her and the dog pulls back a moment and then realizes it's time to play. The horse rears and I'm scared and Honey pulls back and then circles. The horse likes that. There's another horse at the end of the yard a brown and white one and he runs into the melee and my dog is in terrified ecstasy now. She looks up at me a moment. Why am I letting her do this. The parts don't fit. I know I can't let the horses run free on the ranch land. It's right over there. I could pick them all up and they could all go running for hours. And I know she would love that but I'm thinking we can just do more. I just keep an eye on her running

freely with the tiny ponies there aren't any people out here yet this morning. I stare at the horizon, several steps away and the water tower is still there but I think it's just part way up my calf, the courthouse is a bauble. If I want to make some trouble I can put her on the grass outside where we usually go and I do. I say bye horses a tremendous sound and I cup my dog and the truck is under my arm pit, I think the windows are closed so stuff doesn't fall out. I don't know when I'll drive it again but still I'm really careful. I'm the most careful giant in the world. There's my house down there. I'm like an enormous cloud passing my house and darkening every bit of it. I put the truck carefully in front and head for the center of town. I love how birds aren't scared of me at all. Every time I stand still a couple begin circling me and one brave little guy lands on my shoulder from time to time. I think they think of me as some kind of tree. And I think that's exactly true. I place Honey down on the lawn outside the courthouse. People are in their offices doing work. It's Tuesday or it was so the town's pretty empty and nobody's noticed me yet. What if along with being enormous I'm the only person left in the world. Or even just in this town. Then I can relax and try and figure out how to live in this world at this scale. I would just take the roof off the grocery store and eat everything there is. I look down since I'd forgotten about my dog in my reveries about no people and she's

gone. Oh no. I look up and she's strolling happily down the main drag heading to the hotel where normally she'd get a treat from the people in reception. But those days are over. I can't open the door for her and once she was in what would I do. Somebody comes out of the hotel just as I'm thinking this and my dog runs right in through the open door. Oh fuck. I throw myself down on the street which is about as wide as I am and I peer in at Honey standing at the reception counter barking. They're looking amused though probably wondering where her owner is until they see the enormous eye vertically looking in on them from outside. The woman picks up the phone to call whoever she would call about a giant being outside the door if she even knows that's what's attached to the eye. Several people come out from the other door and they are standing on the sidewalk looking at me like a UFO has just landed. They seem torn between horror and yet they have pulled out their phones and are taking pictures but it's too close for the image to make any sense I think. I wonder if I have a phone anymore and I feel its bump in my back pocket which is amazing that it came along. I don't know why my only impulse is to take pictures back at this moment. My dog comes out and is sitting on the sidewalk next to me. The tiny tiny dog and her giant master. She might be my only friend right now. She just completely adjusted to my new career being huge and she's waiting for the next development. I set the phone on

the ground next to me which is about five times bigger than any of these people and I take a picture of the hotel and the tiny people outside of it and I get a little paw and the back of my dog's head. I push send and I wonder what this looks like to the world. I realize not very interesting because of the miracle of scale it'll just look like a picture and it's what's on the other side of the camera that's amazing. I thought about reversing it and showing my own giant self but it will just look like any other selfie. If my phone was tiny it might look different but then I could barely use it. I realize cameras can't really reproduce great moments in nature or I'm not interested in making that possible. Who cares about the amazing stellar nature photograph right. And this is that. I'm in it and that's the point but it's kind of lonely. It makes me want to throw the fucking phone away but suddenly I realize this is the only place I am normal. I might want to hold on to that for some late night conversation in which I get to pretend that nothing's changed. Eileen says my friend laughing who just walked out of the hotel. Is that you. What happened. I don't know. I found myself huge. In some ways...and I realize he's looking at me like he can't believe what he sees. I'm sorry Eileen he smiles. I've gotta admit it's a little jarring and he chuckles again. You were saying something. I can feel cars behind me squeezing between me and the sidewalk. Well a few days ago or maybe it was

yesterday I was tiny and that was dangerous. Honey was a threat though I don't think she meant to be. That's Honey he laughed. Right. She'll just give you that open mouthed smile. He's nodding in agreement. But when you're tiny that means your life is over. I stroke my dog's back with my fingertip. Awr Honey he goes affectionately. This is something else entirely. This is great and I get up and I can almost see to Presidio. I don't know it's just different. The air really affects my face. Nothing's blocking the wind and the circulation of the air but the mountains. How long have you been like this. Just a couple of hours. But it seems like you've got it all figured out. I'm adaptable. You always were he laughs. Well I still owe you some money for that photograph I sold. Thank you but I don't even know what money is right now. It seems like I can just take things. I get back down and kind of squat in front of my friend. But what things. I don't mean I would take from you. Oh you could take a few things. Your books are too small. My books are too small he repeats taking that in. I think that's what my phone is good for. I pull it out. Jesus Eileen. Your phone is huge. We could do an outdoor screening. We could do that. I've got to go back to work. I don't know if you are thinking about this yet but if you need a place to sleep tonight the arena would probably work. I don't know how you would get in but I think they *have* ways of getting really big equipment in there so

I think there is a way. I can look into that if you'd like. Hi Eileen. Caitlin who is married to Tim walks by. I guess they're both married. She's holding a coffee cup. She gives me a really sweet smile. Now that is cool. She either does not notice anything different which is pretty weird but sweet. Or she's deliberately giving me my space...Eileen! She's back. I just had all this Judd stuff on my mind and I thought there's Eileen. We both smile. So uh what happened.

I mean it's a writing experiment? It was. I'm sorry I hate when people speak in questions. But now it's my condition.

Maren's coming. Maren's coming. I think she wanted to surprise you. I look towards Alpine and I see her blonde head. Maren I call and Tim and Caitlin and a car crashes around my ankle. People are holding their eyes. I'm sorry I call down to Tim. He nods almost apologetically it's loud.

I've gotta go waves Caitlin. I see this enormous pink body walking past the Lost Horse and she's as tall as me. I mean a little shorter but she always was. Maren. Hello she calls musically. You don't have any clothes on. Well I realized that I could do this and nobody would harass me. I've never had this luxury before. I remember in the Caribbean. You liked being naked. Well that's right. That's for damn sure. Are you cold. No it's nice. I put my clothes...I think they're in your yard. Hi

Honey. Yeah I bet you'll really like her now. Too bad Marcel isn't here. But it would be the same thing. It kind of would be. The nice thing is she can't run away. I can just kind of scoop her up. I pick her up and cup her and Maren touches the top of her tiny head. Honey recognizes her. She likes you. I always loved Honey.

We look at each other and it's very sweet. Then we stop and look around. It's just ours, this tiny world. I am getting cold she says. Can I use your jacket. Of course. I shrug off my black Patagonia jacket. How did the clothes expand along with you. Well yours did too right. Yes but as soon as I took them off and left them in your yard. . . why did you do that by the way. I thought it was sweet. I wanted you to know I was here. Did you know that I was already big. I wasn't sure but I was with Marcel at the vet in Alpine and I put him in the car and I thought about you and that you didn't know I was here yet and suddenly I was looking down on the vet's office. It was tiny. We're going to get really sick of saying that word. I don't notice it. Really. Yeah yeah I just like the shape of the world. We're really the scale of the land. Do you think so. Am I being too art historical. What do you mean. Well this is my project essentially. Land art. I can actually look at this part of the world from an aerial perspective. It's such a gift. Thank you. Why are you thanking me. Well you're writing this aren't you.

Yeah but I don't want you taking over its direction. You are so narcissistic. Me? Is there somebody else I'm talking to. She had my jacket on but now I was cold. I have a really good idea for where we can nap or else sleep tonight. I know. Eye-roll. The arena. No. Well that's one of our options. The tomato greenhouse. That is good. Because of the tarps. Yes it's enormous. Like us and she kisses me. Did you think of that. Peggy did. Oh your friend Peggy. She just texted me. She already knew. Is there something wrong with that. I don't know I just don't know about these friendships of yours. I think this is a time for us to not be small with each other. She shakes her head like she can't believe me. But you know what I mean. I think it's exciting. I can't decide whether I'd like to curl up around those purple mountains with you or get under the tarp of the tomato factory – it's a greenhouse. Ok the greenhouse and feel the warmth. That might be really nice.

What are we going to do with the tomatoes. Crush them. I knew you'd be more comfortable with being destructive than I am. And why do you think that is. Well that's the way you are. We don't know how long this will last. Let's go over to the ranch land near Mary's and stretch out in the sun. You want to have sex. Like this. Like anyway. Well maybe a little bit. It's not like anybody can see us. Everybody can see us. Eileen we're huge. Big people are bullies. I mean before you got here I could see how

out of sheer loneliness I don't know you just start to destroy things. You're hungry and everything's small. Our voices are so huge and their voices are tiny. If you want anything you have to take everything to get anything at all. We're like capitalism. We're totally like capitalism. I love you.

I totally do. This is like we got married. Do you think anybody cares about our age difference now. Our dogs are so tiny. Where is Honey. She's right there. Yards below us sits a tiny dog with a winsome face looking up. Where is Marcel. In my house. I told Clara and she's going to pick him up. I think I would like to keep Honey with us. Of course. Listen. Before this happened I had gone to enormous effort to bring Marcel to you in New York. And now none of that is going to happen. Well we don't know. How long is this going to last. I'd love to meet your mother now. You're funny. It's true. While feeding and clothing ourselves are now an enormous problem certain human relationships – like my mother – like your mother are almost funny. She would be like Maren you have no pants on. Who is that. But she wouldn't even say that right away. She'd be a little bit like Honey. Does Marcel notice. He does. I think he understood that it would mainly be different being cuddly. That's why I texted Clara. Texting of course. That's much better than calling people. Right because you're not boom boom. This is boom boom calling. Yes no matter what the actual fact of our scale must be kept out of all

communications. So maybe whatever else happens we're only enormous in Marfa. Right. Honey's fine. That's always what's good about her. Can we stop talking about your dog. Well I said I loved you. No I said I loved you. It was a loving moment.

Two giants are standing in the middle of town having a snippy argument. At some moment they're going to start laughing at themselves. The people on the sidewalk and from inside the hotel are all out on the street. The police cars are lined up blocking the street with their lights flashing but the cops have all stepped out and are talking among themselves smoking and laughing. The train goes by and everyone turns.

Hooooooooooooooooonk hooooooooooooooooonk.

Is that how you make a train sound. I don't know. I just wanted it to take up some space. If we're going to take a nap we'll need some water. You're going to have to go along with some destruction. We have to put ourselves first. That's just healthy. What are you thinking of. Maren's looking at me and I love how she gets so serious. The water tower. The water tower. Eileen we can't take the water tower. What is the town going to use. I'm sorry honey but we have to drink water. This is not and I gesture towards my enormous chest and of course I mean everything going to last forever. You don't know. They have the

whole world to help them. What does that mean. I mean that if Marfa becomes a disaster area and all their water supply has been taken by giants the world will help them. It depends. What do you mean. Can we talk about this when we're walking. Just be careful. I do have an idea. The grain thing. Godbold. Yeah. That's its name. I know but you just take every opportunity to let me know how MARFA you are. Eileen I spent my twenties here. Okay. I can take that and just tip the water tower into it. Why are you going to all this effort. Well I was thinking there are cattle troughs on the land but it's not summer so they are probably empty. But I was thinking I would get one, go back to the water tower, fill it and then go to Mary's. You know these are tiny steps. I don't think you're entirely taking in...I think we don't even have to have sex. I just think being this enormous and lying down on the land (with little bulls around us) and maybe them just rubbing against us a little bit would be incredibly hot. Nobody can come. I know I can't. That's why we can't have sex. I tipped my head because I didn't know what she meant. Omigod yeah you're right. We would - attract the national guard or something. Somebody saying god god god people would think it was the end of the world. So that we're like no longer strange because I'm twice your age. We're just strange. Yeah now that we've dealt with that she makes the hand wiping gesture we're just upsetting to like FEMA. She laughs but she looks

worried. Would they take care of us or them. Definitely them. Okay so here. It's really easy. Eileen's tipping water into the giant silo plucked while they walked from the middle of town. Do you know how to put that back. This is part of the collateral damage thing we have to live with – or else we don't live. I just wish there was some other way. We step over the ranch fence with our giant tin glass of water. Mary's getting out of her car. She waves. She is so chill. I know.

We lie down. It's weirdly comfortable. Let me spoon you. Of course. Oh god. What. Are you going to snore. I was just lifting the Godbold silo to my lips. I won't. Can you promise me that. I sit up for a moment looking across the ranch land. I see some cattle in the distance. I put Honey very delicately in the crook of my neck which seems like it might be cozy. I mean if she runs after the bulls I can deal but I want to sleep. I won't snore cause I'm getting plenty of air out here and I'm well hydrated. I'll believe it when I see it. Babe. I wrap myself around her and we both slip off. I can hear Honey's tiny breath too.

When I woke the sun was lower in the sky. I went to turn to see if Maren was at my side but I couldn't move my head. Or I could but it hurt. Maren. I'm here. This is so fucked. They've got us tied up if you haven't figured that out. Why would they do that.

It's Marfa. They know us. I think they don't feel the same way. Actually the people who did this were...I don't know these people. Like Border Patrol. Like ranchers. Like when Honey. Omigod where's Honey. That part is okay. Farley took Honey. She did. That's amazing. She said she's working on it. That could mean anything. C'mon. Mary is our friend. I love Farley. We have not talked about the Elrod thing. I mean she started at dinner...Eileen that is not our big problem here. I didn't know why you wanted to take a nap out in public. I was trying to savor our resources. I figured we could power up, then figure out food then head to the Tomato factory. It's a greenhouse.

Do we need like lawyers or something. Or swords. We're kind of like huge homeless people. I think we need swords. Eileen's hair is pulled in a sunflower format out in ten different directions. If you saw it from overhead. Maren's is in four or five small ponies. Their hair is staked to the ground and a bunch of cattle are standing around since this is the most interesting thing that's happened in years. Or at least since the time that Honey went running with them.

Eileen aren't you finding this is getting kind of boring. I just wish I could hold your hand. Like they would ever let monsters have that. I think someone will rescue us soon. Helloo called

out a voice with a particular accent. Charline. Farley told me about your situation. I think I have what you need. Christopher has some very sharp cutting tools. I think...there. She was already freeing one of the strands. And then another and then another. I'm sorry she's doing mine first. Me too laughed Charline. A little cowboy rode up. What do you ladies think you're doing. I'm not a lady. Eileen. I feel less a lady and at that moment Charline freed my hand. I shook it at the cowboy cause it was stiff and his horse nearly threw him. Whoa take it easy girl. That's a nice horse. I ride. You ride what. Good question. My point being you big girls (thank you) were tied up for a purpose. And what was that. Charline's so to the point. To protect you by now I'm sitting up and the community. I pick up one of the tiny cows and carefully pet its back. It stands there on my palm stoically receiving it. That's nice. By now Maren's free too. I've got to go to the studio says Charline. Bye says Maren. Well it seems you're being gentle with my cattle and I appreciate that. We're not monsters. The cowboy stares at Maren after she says that. I'm going to have to tell the sheriff and the town people that you are free again. I'm sorry. You seem like nice...folks. Yeah right we are. I think we'll just get out of here so we won't be your problem. Eileen picks herself up. You're being nice Maren says and the tiny cowboy tips his hat.

We start walking down Washington. I'm thinking we need a plan. What did you expect to get out of this. When Maren says this she could mean anything. Which this. There's a silent huff of frustration. I think you are responsible for our situation. She still means everything but I think she means being large for sure. I was small. I mean I was already small. I was tiny. How did I not know about this. I shrugged cause I definitely called her. It was interesting, it was strategic. But it was dangerous too. So is this. Not exactly. When this happened to other people. What other people. In the past. They were shipwrecked. We're home. It seems very social to me.

Right like all the interpersonal stuff even our stuff seems...misaligned? Yes. I think I'm going to go see Suze. We're really close and I think she will have an interesting angle on this. If you want to sleep at the tomato factory tonight that's where I think I will be. I wave my phone at her. Text me. I think that's the best thing. I love you. She kisses me. Really. Yes of course I do. I love you.

She looks back at me and we might as well be any size. She's wondering as always if this is possible. I might be they in the world but here I'm this. I guess that's our problem. The shape of it. I want to sit down on the trail and think about things

but I think I'm going to simply make myself comfortable. What do you want. That's what my therapist asks. I'm wonder if Maren is going to call Barbara. That's her shrink. Sometimes when we talk on the phone I feel like they are talking. Maybe we should just put them in touch. I always want to sit down but I don't.

There's a thing with cattle called flight zone. If you want to move them you have to know what their needs are in terms of personal space. I just learned this. Like if you get too close they flee. I'm looking at those big blue mountains up there that I always love and I think I'll get close. It seems like it would feel good with my body to understand those ranges and curls. But I do want to draw. I text Maren. I think you've got my jacket. I mean I know you do. There's a sharpie in the pocket and I think it's the only writing implement in the world for me right now. You're so dramatic she texts back. Not really. OK she says I'm almost to Suze's but I can lean it against the water town. I'll put it in the back. Those guys don't even look. Okay I just did it. Thank you.

I have my pen and I'm heading towards those nice purple mountains near Fort Davis and I'm thinking about Greece. Those two islands Fat and Far. Apollo had a foot on each. The whole shape of the earth all its cliffs and craters and even the sea have been explained to us in terms of giants. Big one-eyed

people picking up boulders and throwing them. I'm glad Marfa is so chill and disorganized that whoever ordered us tied up is on some other mission entirely now. Nobody cares. That's why I love it here. But we grew up, I mean cultures did, I mean children did thinking of the world as like made and shaped by somebody huge. I'm ready. Even if I feel disastrously alone. Apollo stood on the two islands and he wanted to help the tiny men in a boat. They were lost and he needed to give them a sign. To show them the way. He threw a bolt of lightning at this island which basically lit up and said here it is. Anafi means pretty much that. By that time I had arrived at the most seductive and smoothest slope of this beautiful mountain range. I doubted I would make it to the tomato factory tonight but I began to draw.

It looked looked like this:

