
Never Let Me Go

There's little left to do...
but, looking back, we carp the moment —
its squirmy, scaly shape aflutter in our palms.

The evening's ether gathers in the hallway
and shapes itself into the faces that we loved.

They're blown away.

Their whispers' echo is but a dew on morning grass.

'Twill dry and soon a searing sunrise
shall blind us blithely as we rouse and rise.

Another breakfast in a hall of mirrors —
each cup of coffee cooler than the last.
You crunch your toast — your fingers barely moving.
A feisty crumb collapses on your plate.

Look up at me!

I'm in your presence.

What have we managed to achieve?
Have we succeeded? Have we faltered?
Your gaze betrays no insights or regrets.

I reach my hand across the shaky table
and touch your skin — is it transparent or opaque?

The dripping tap doles out the seconds
that we have left to seize the protean day.
My hands are weak, so you must help me!
The slimy bugger wiggles, worms and writhes.

And yet we cannot win the struggle
'gainst gravity's maternal beck and call.
So what is left? Astonishingly little.
Just breathe, relax and never let me go.

[HOME](#)

OCTOBER 2020

LIVING SPRINGS PUBLISHERS

[PAST ISSUES](#)[SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICATION](#)

Vladimir (Vlad) Tumanov was born in Moscow, Russia (former USSR) in 1961. In 1974, his family emigrated to Canada where Vlad grew up and received his education: BA in French Studies (University of Alberta), MA in Russian and French translation (Université de Montréal), PhD in Comparative Literature (University of Alberta). He has been a professor at Western University (formerly the University of Western Ontario) in London, Ontario, Canada since 1991. Over the years, Vlad has taught language and literature courses in the following fields: Russian, French, German and Comparative Literature.

In addition to various academic books and articles, Vlad has written and published a number of children's novels that have appeared in numerous languages all over the world, including China, Turkey, The Czech Republic, Korea, Albania, Russia and Canada. For more information, please see his [website](#). His latest novel, entitled *Cassandra's Mountain*, is due to appear in Turkish translation this year and in French in 2021.

HOME

OCTOBER 2020

LIVING SPRINGS PUBLISHERS

PAST ISSUES

SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICATION



Proudly powered by Weebly