

Joanne Scicluna

TO SAY WHAT IS ON OUR MINDS

to say what is on our minds
means we wait laden with words
we cannot pronounce
our conversations clauses from *Catch-22*
don't we love the analogy
how we haven't read the book.

we cloak the waiting with cigarettes
our smoked words filtering darkness
are not lined by a Rich poem
our eyes do not spell out, exit
our ears are tuned to a child and for tomorrow
to say what is on our minds.

to say what is on our minds
means to fish when before a child I used to
trawl our talk like a prawn boat
finding you in the dredge without
you ever knowing that you were found out
now you don't speak you listen with the sound turned down.

fishing with children means a tangle of lines
the distraction makes you cast into trees
but silence is the sinker — it gives us immunity
from fault on our gang hook going down
as if under water was the place
to say what is on our minds.

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