1974

The Body Tries to Give Itself Up

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1642

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THE BODY TRIES TO GIVE ITSELF UP

Who goes first and who should be last
is it the right of the feet
which brought us here to hold out

until the end or of the hands which
opened the doors held the ropes
and turned the pages we couldn’t

have done without them or the eyes
not always reliable but they led
the way and we could not have

done without them can we count
on the voice to plead the case
of the others with an eloquence

equal to its own and will it
be necessary to attempt more
delicate divisions fingers from

hands nails from fingers
at the end could we choose
between the left eye and the other

or one word and another
when we’re told how many
remain to be spoken

Lawrence Raab