Dear City

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Dear City

For days the water holds on, will not release the city

* 

and from up here I can't hold on to you, my city,

* 

can't reach my parents who refused to leave the city.

* 

In school we were taught: shaped like a bowl this city

* 

can't withstand the weight of too much water, city

* 

braced by dirt levees, all the floodwalls cracking. City

* 

where I no longer live, where I am locked out, city

* 

I lived in for so long, that has since lived in me, city

*
I must now watch on this computer screen, late-summer city—

* 

"Watch the video of the worsening saturation of the city."

* 

"Watch the video account of unanswered screams." City

* 

fringed by a river, by a wide lake that spills over the city,

* 

oh, pale green city of my imagination. Now I can't carry you, city,

* 

can't shutter you tight within my body to stop the repeating

* 

of our jump rope rhyme: Lost a city. Lost a city. Lost a city. Lost