

Paperbark Literary Magazine

Volume 3
Issue 3 *Issue 03*

Article 1

April 2022

The Jasmine Ascension

CA Conrad

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/paperbark>

Recommended Citation

Conrad, CA (2022) "The Jasmine Ascension," *Paperbark Literary Magazine*: Vol. 3: Iss. 3, Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/paperbark/vol3/iss3/1>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Paperbark Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.

from *The Jasmine Ascension*
by CAConrad

do not live as
though you are a
footnote to the
mention of
a wiggle
timid
hand
reaching into
morning weather
the beach in
California
feels good
because
America
is no longer
in front of us
stop thinking we
got it wrong
lovers friends and
people I hope to
never see again
keep converting
oxygen with
one breath
then the
next

would
a church
exist if our
fear of death
did not prevail
retire the invisible
arm reaching in and
out of our attention
a tree
reveals
its pulse
to the
leaning
lovers
was that you
it wasn't me
our names
materialize
on lips of
everyone
we love
a brief
frequency
holding each
syllable
midair

it is easy to
forget there
are other stars
when sunlight
fills me
to the
gills
keeping
a toe in
the dance
music our
preferred
epoxy
I do not
have enough
civic pride for
the grift in
this system
get me out
of the grime of
the sentence
earning love is
like taxing oxygen
how many times are we
asked to overthrow our desire
please say you too are sick of it