

# The Messenger

---

Volume 2014  
Issue 1 *The Messenger*, 2014

Article 47

---

2014

## Patience

Mariela Renquist

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Renquist, Mariela (2014) "Patience," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2014: Iss. 1, Article 47.

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2014/iss1/47>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Messenger* by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu](mailto:scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu).

# Patience // Mariela Renquist

Patience is a virtue they say  
Well, let me tell you something about waiting.  
It's a virtue because it's hard to do  
To spend every day watching a ticking clock  
Tick tock tick tock tick tock  
Like a child in a horror film, my pulse begins to  
    speed  
Tick tock tick tock tick tock  
I hear the monsters under my bed begin to walk  
Tick tock tick tock tick tock

We are the culture of instant gratification  
I want- I want- I want  
So why is it so hard to say yes or no?  
We play with people more carelessly than objects.

Patience is a virtue they say  
Well, let me tell you something about waiting.  
I've been waiting my whole life.  
I simply slept in the womb, didn't cause a fuss  
When my momma was ready, she'd give me up.  
I stood under a tree for days at a new school  
Not speaking, not playing, just waiting  
Until someone came along who would hold my hand  
    and run.

I spent four years of my life waiting for a boy that  
    would never love me  
Maybe next year, he said. Maybe then. Never again.

I spent 3 months waiting for my best friend to speak  
to me

She who had decided I suddenly wasn't worthy.

I spent 4 months waiting in bed because my body  
gave up on me

And 9 months after that waiting for food because I  
didn't think it should be given to me.

I spent six months waiting for a boy that finally  
cared

And a year spent waiting for him to say so

343 days spent waiting for him to come home

22 spent waiting to see him

90 spent wondering where I would go

150 spent waiting to get there

2,208 hours spent waiting to get back

72 hours spent waiting for judgment when I made a  
mistake

1,440 hours spent crying when he left

216,000 minutes spent waiting to feel alright

57,600 minutes waiting for something new and  
finding someone

129,600 minutes spent waiting for my brain to  
realize I truly cared

And 60 minutes spent watching it crumble.

So when you asked me for time and space I said,  
oh yes.

I know time and space.

I, who know what I want the minute I find it,

Yes I know how to spend time.

188,870,400 ticks of the clock, monsters under my  
bed, waiting for them.

515,808,000 seconds spent waiting for others to  
decide what they want with me.

So can I wait for you?

Well, let me tell you something about waiting.