

8

My dog died today
which is a thing that isn't
true.

It was more of an insect
than a dog
which is a thing that isn't
true. A thought is
more an insect than
a dog.

485

But dogs have part of the awareness of a creature that knows itself. Daniel Dennett is a philosopher that I know of from⁴—

506

If I, born a woman (except I wasn't? why think I was?). If I, from utero with utero, can become something else, is a dog such

⁴ *Aeon*? Nope. Ibid. I checked.

9

My dog, who was a spider
died yesterday.
I was restless at night.
Its legs were hairy. I
crushed it. I got up to get
myself a little drink.

484

When we talk of a dog nearby dogs' ears prick up. They don't worry, though, what we're saying about them. Whether we think they are fetching or nice.

507

a far-away possibility? Why can't I add teeth? I could add a whatchmacallit organ⁵ to my nose.

⁵ "There is some evidence that humans unconsciously perceive pheromones, perhaps even through a nasal vomeronasal organ.*" [the * is to a footnote about Martha McClintock.] "Dogs definitely have a vomeronasal organ: it sits about the roof (hard palate) of the mouth, along the floor of the nose (nasal septum)." *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know*, Alexandra Horowitz (New York: Scribner, 2010), 73–74.

10

My dog, had it existed, would die today. I can tell because the sky looks like grey gum.

483

Because wolves have to pull apart bodies. They drag them over snow or into forests, away from wolves.

508

I would need to add olfactory receptors. (Could a cell be implanted?) 215 million?⁶

⁶ “The average person has around 5 million scent receptors in his or her nose ... The average dog has around 220 million receptors in its nose ...” *How to Speak Dog: Mastering the Art of Dog-Human Communication*, Stanley Coren (New York: Atria Paperback, 2014), 183.

11

My dog.

482

One experiment was vaguely: pull this rope, pull that rope, pull this other one. The wolves all learned faster than the dogs.⁷

509

If only I had dogged ears.

⁷ “Hand-raised wolves tested on their ability to learn a task—to pull three ropes from an array of ropes in a particular order—well outperformed the dogs tested.” *Inside of a Dog*, Horowitz, 44.

12

My dog died today. This isn't a Borscht Belt routine.

It didn't dye its ears or its tuchus or a hind claw. It didn't four-foot over some Rubicon. It wasn't reborn as the mother of the father of all of Rome.

481

I read those books a little. I mean: I read them. One of the advantages of wolves over dogs: A wolf can learn to pull ropes in a particular pattern.

510

I want the kind you had—determined.

13

My dog died today and before my dog died it had a few things to say

I don't know.

480

If a dog read, what would it enjoy reading? Strategies for food procurement. Signs that person's almost home. Ways to lower a car's windows until they disappear.

511

Which way did they go: Down or up?