

## Next year

- is an absence  
  where we expected a presence
- is the cry of a hunting owl  
  that fails to disturb our dreams
- is a 3AM inspiration  
  forgotten in the morning
- is a door  
  we're slamming in our own face
- is a love song  
  from an algorithm  
  to an algorithm
- is a cliff-hanger ending  
  in a TV series  
  not yet re-commissioned
- is a word  
  for winter weather  
  redacted from the dictionary
- is a number of non-native birds  
  whose prophetic significance  
  is not known to us
- is a light  
  in a window in a forest  
  seen in the middle of the night  
  by a traveller who has been overtaken by darkness  
  and has climbed a tree to be safe from wild beasts  
  and is weighing the odds  
  whether the cottage will contain  
  a poor woman's beautiful daughter  
  or a cannibal witch
- is a star  
  visible in a break in the clouds  
  for not quite long enough to make a wish

- is a deepfake  
with my head  
mouthing their words
- is a deadline  
and a blank sheet of paper
- is our Stockholm syndrome  
relationship with time