

HONORABLE MENTION: Jodi Balas

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT CALLING YOU

To ask if you've experienced the smoke
from the Canadian wildfires? If you've caught
wind of it – in your new atmosphere? When you
breathed it in, ~~were you reminded of the campfires~~
~~we used to have as kids~~ was it as suffocating there
as it was here? My eyes welled up because ~~your~~
~~love was never contained~~ all that smog caused the
sun to be incredibly blinding. I've been meaning to
ask if I'm still buried below ~~your subconscious~~ if you've
seen the new episodes of *It's Always Sunny*? I remember
how ~~you would always let me fall asleep before you~~
often you'd fall asleep with the TV blaring. Hey – did
you ever make it big with the song writing? I'm proud
to admit that I can finally appreciate your musical
ingenuity – it took me a minute to ~~understand the impact~~
~~childhood trauma can have on relationships~~ grasp
the complexities of music theory – it's all math & we both
know how terrible I am with addition. Did you catch
the eclipse the other night? I caught it on the backend –
lucky huh? Anyway, I'm rambling on but I wanted
to tell you ~~thank you for being my rock and my river~~

Congratulations on the wedding. Oh! & have
you heard – they're getting closer to a cure for cancer?
All the people who would benefit ~~from the type of~~
~~selflessness you give to others~~ from this if it were true –
Healing can be such a ~~frightening~~ beautiful thing
to witness.