

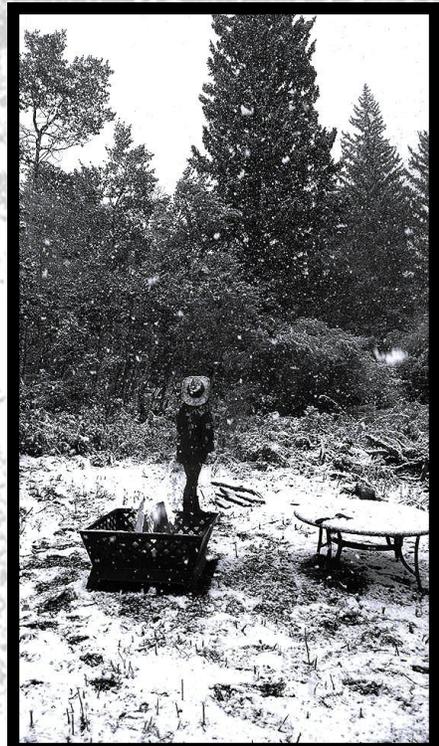
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PCK@PoetryOnClydeLake.com

A Human Life

a book of poems

by
pc keefer

book one



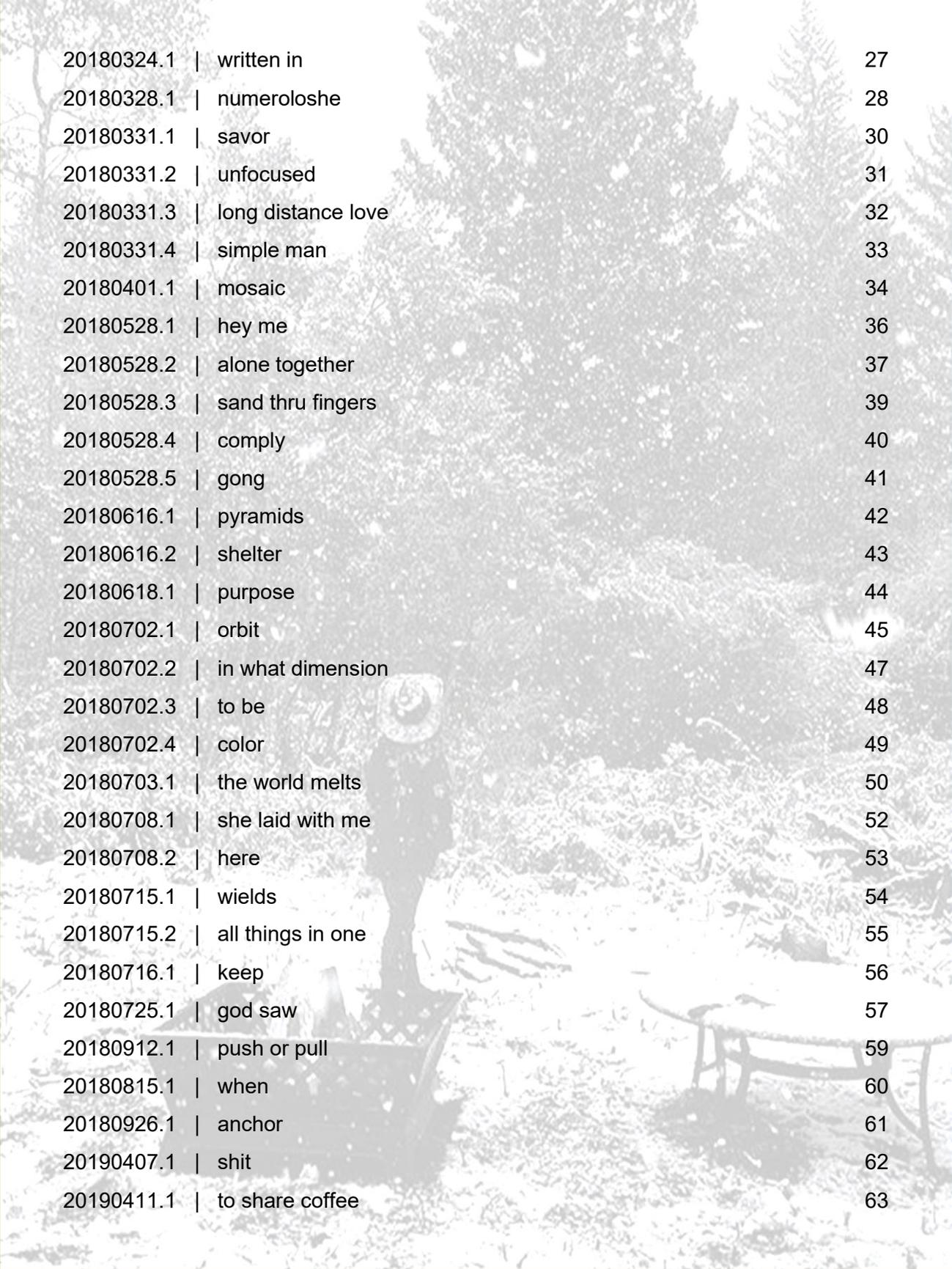
A Human Life

by
pc keeper

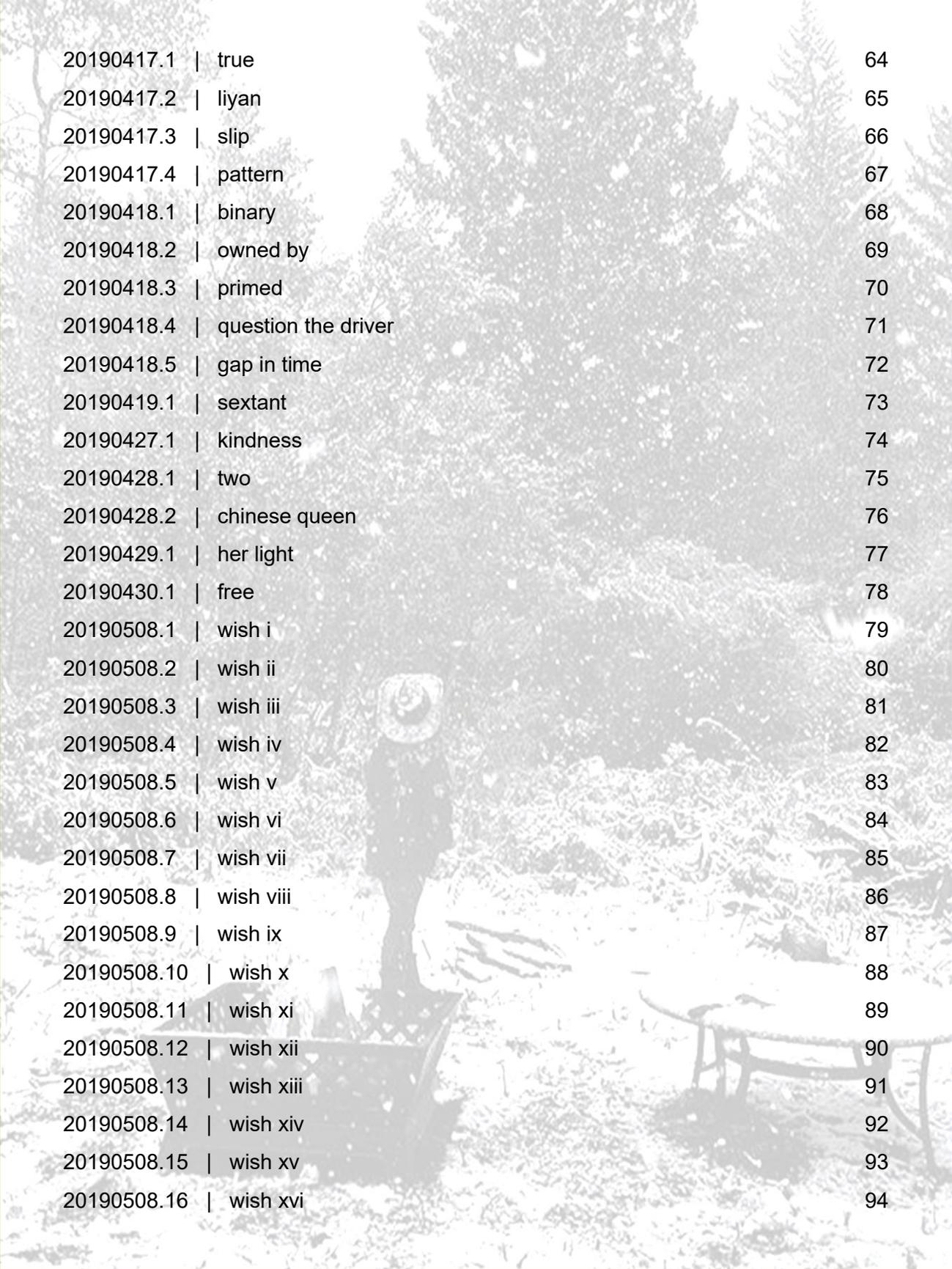
book one

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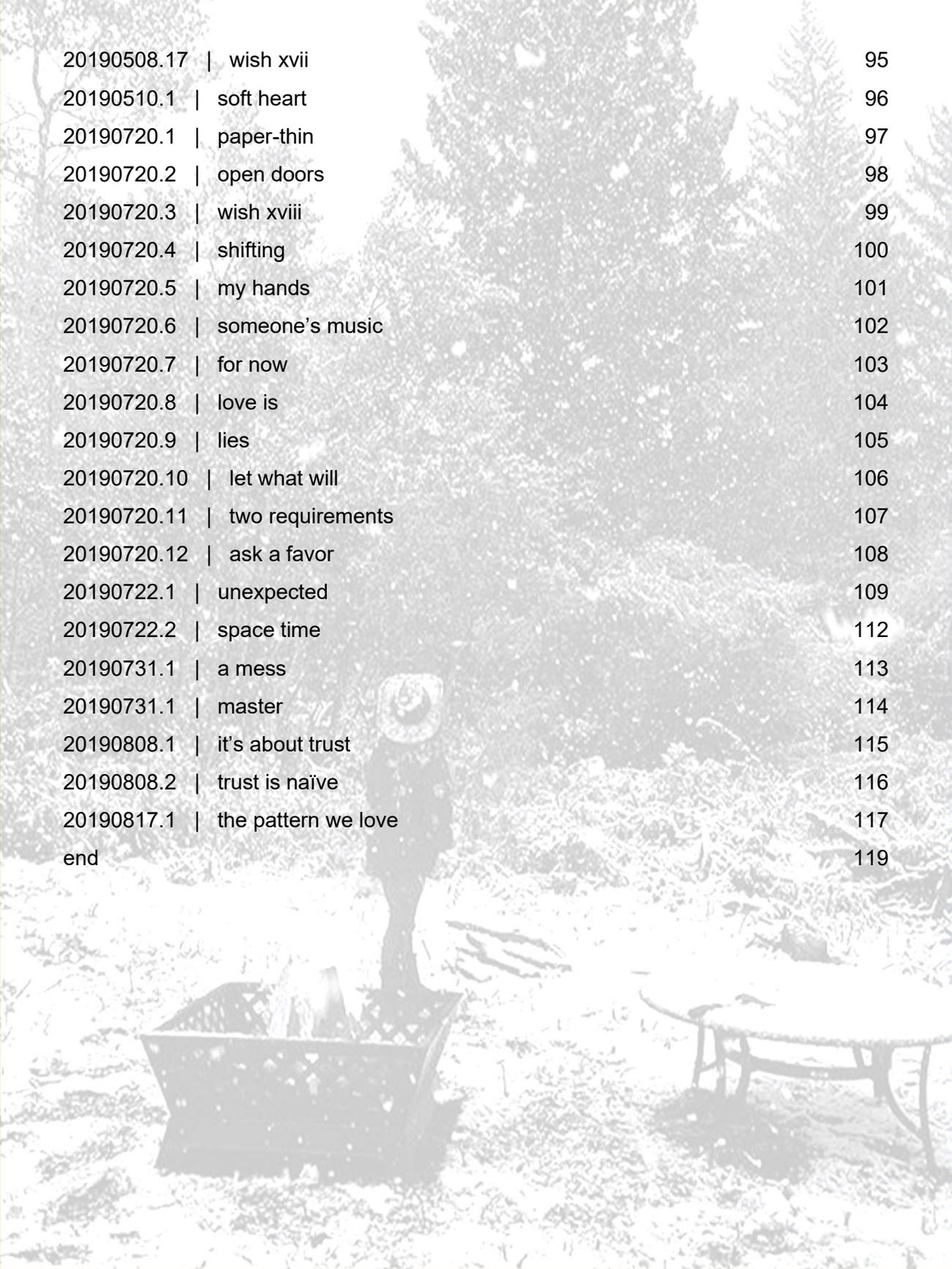
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20170825.1 | fear

i held fear in my heart
most my life

i sweep it out
but it settles again
like dust on the sill

eating, sleeping, washing
are not free

loving, growing, holding
can always flee

it is the slipping
that worries me

keeps me awake
fires the imagination

what if we give it all away
time gone
possessions gone
love gone

if we gave it all away
would we be empty

or would we find ourselves
full

i think we are
by the heavens

empty



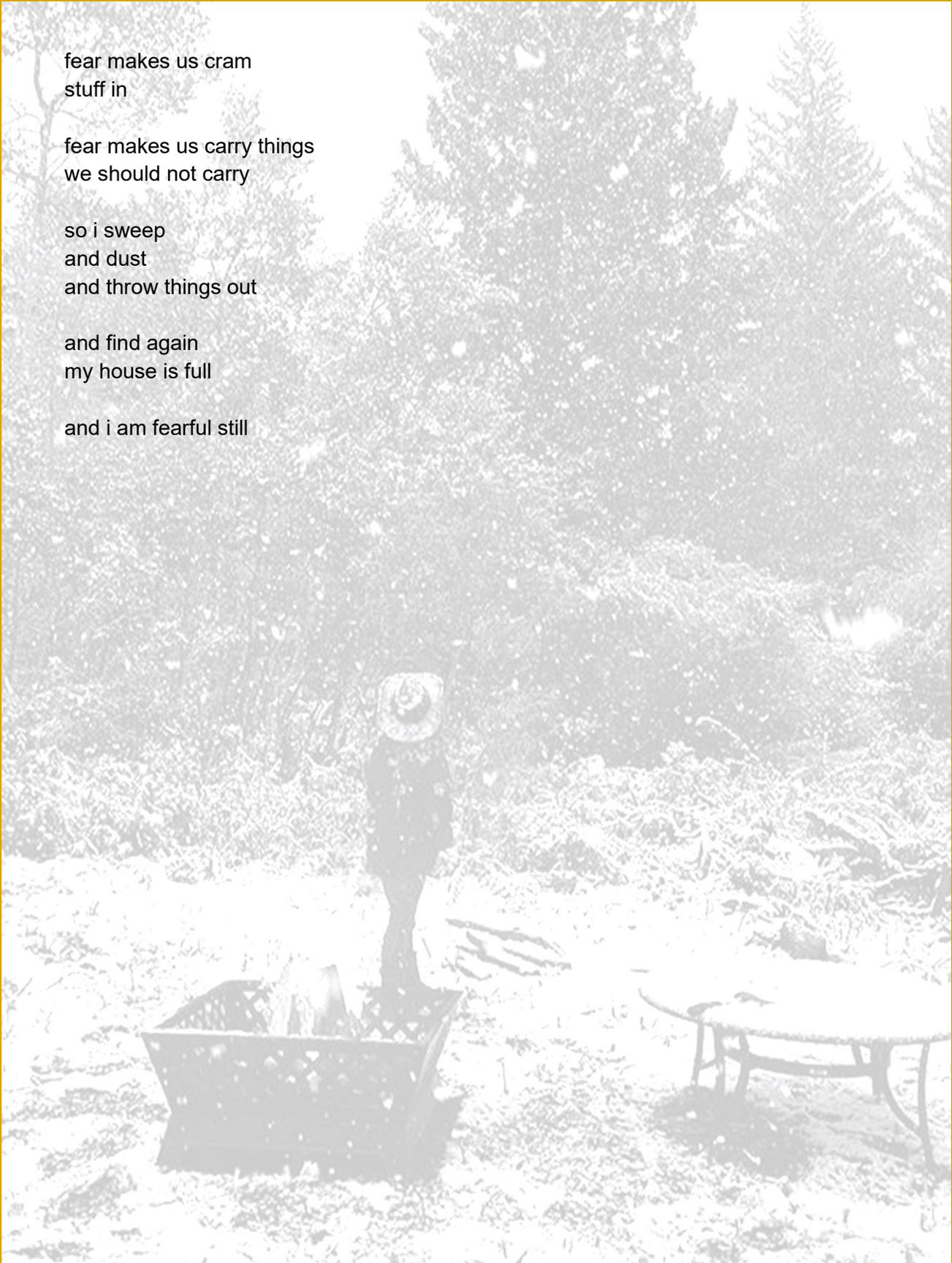
fear makes us cram
stuff in

fear makes us carry things
we should not carry

so i sweep
and dust
and throw things out

and find again
my house is full

and i am fearful still



20171107.1 | necrosis

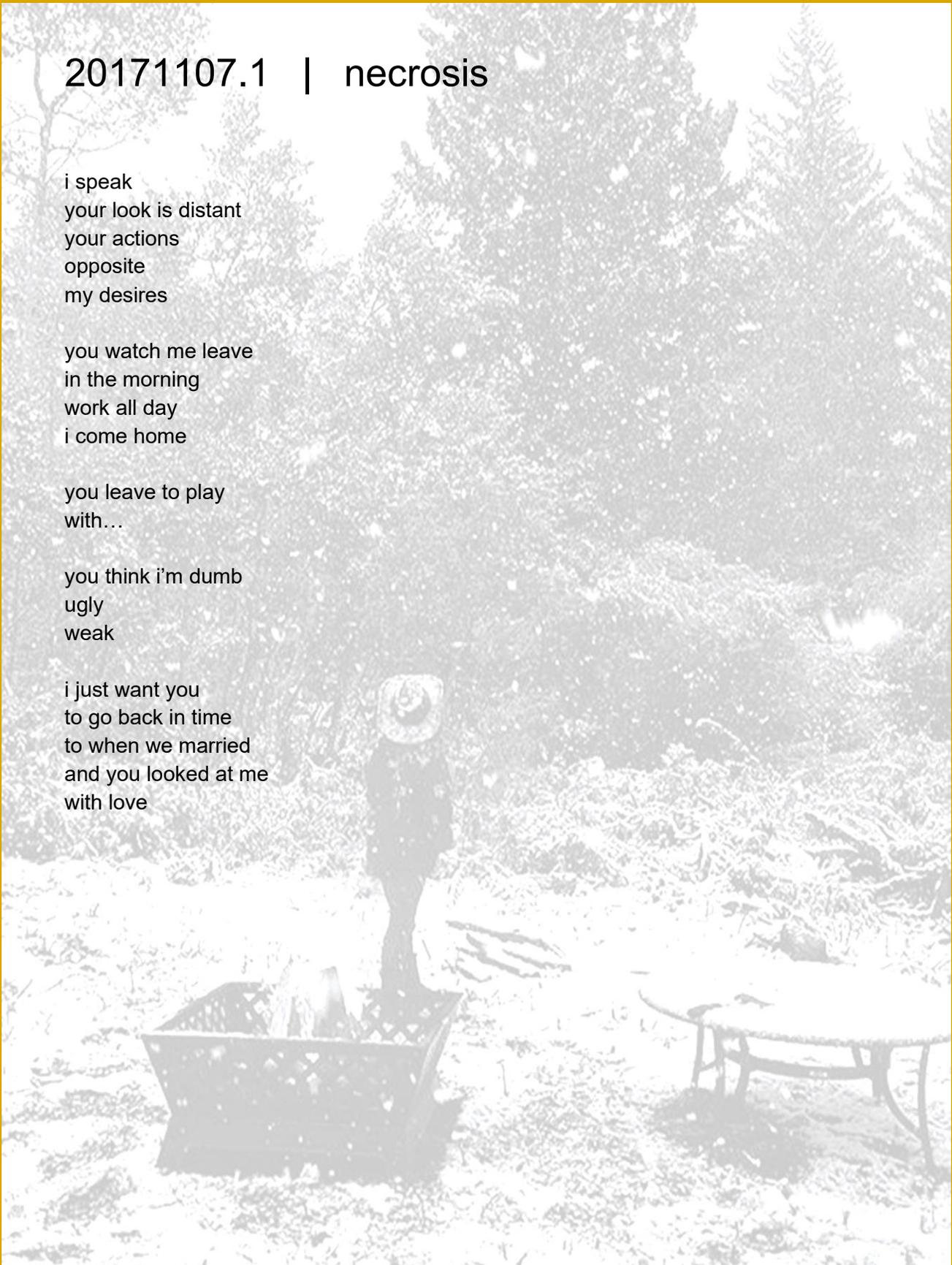
i speak
your look is distant
your actions
opposite
my desires

you watch me leave
in the morning
work all day
i come home

you leave to play
with...

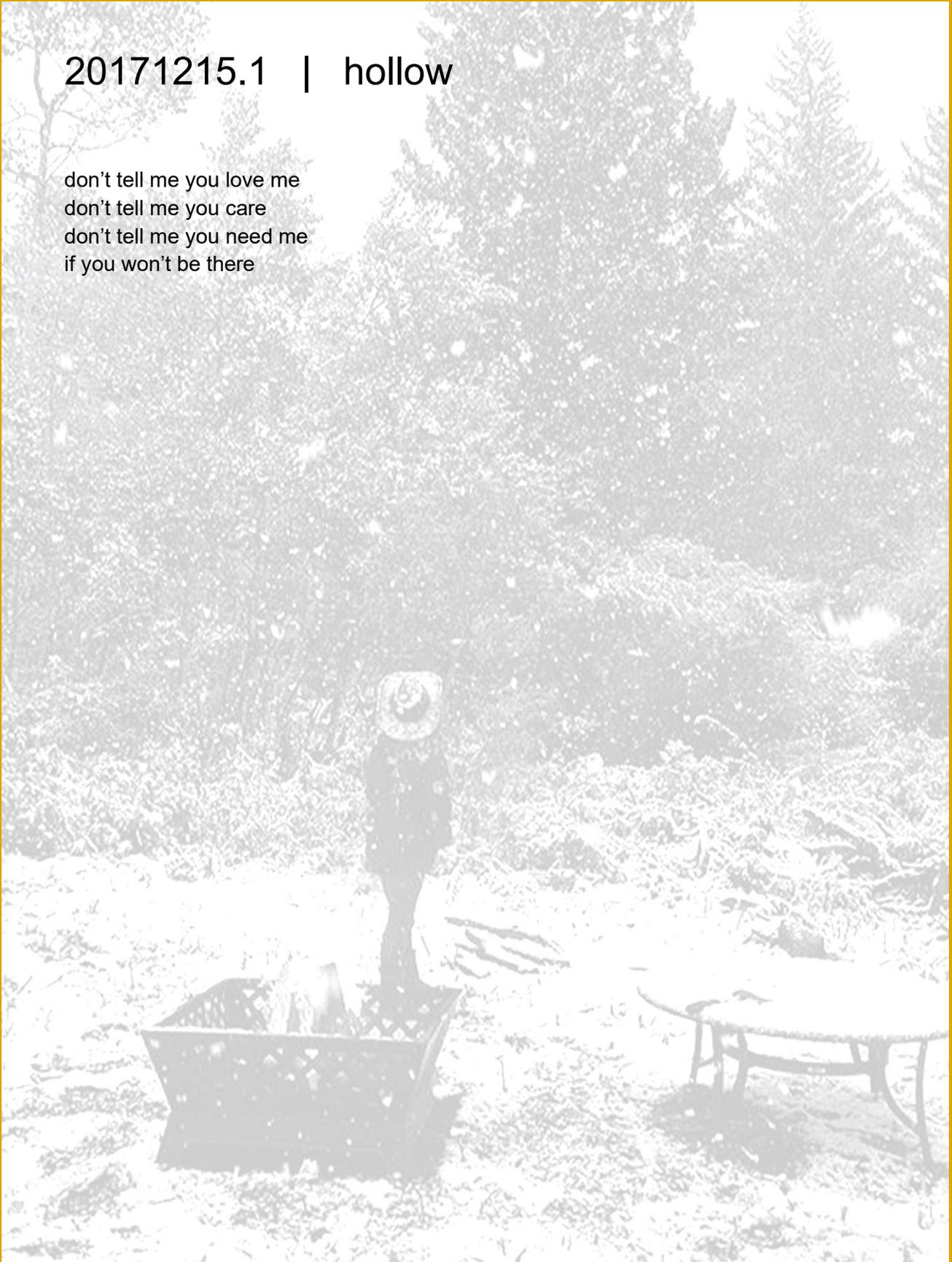
you think i'm dumb
ugly
weak

i just want you
to go back in time
to when we married
and you looked at me
with love



20171215.1 | hollow

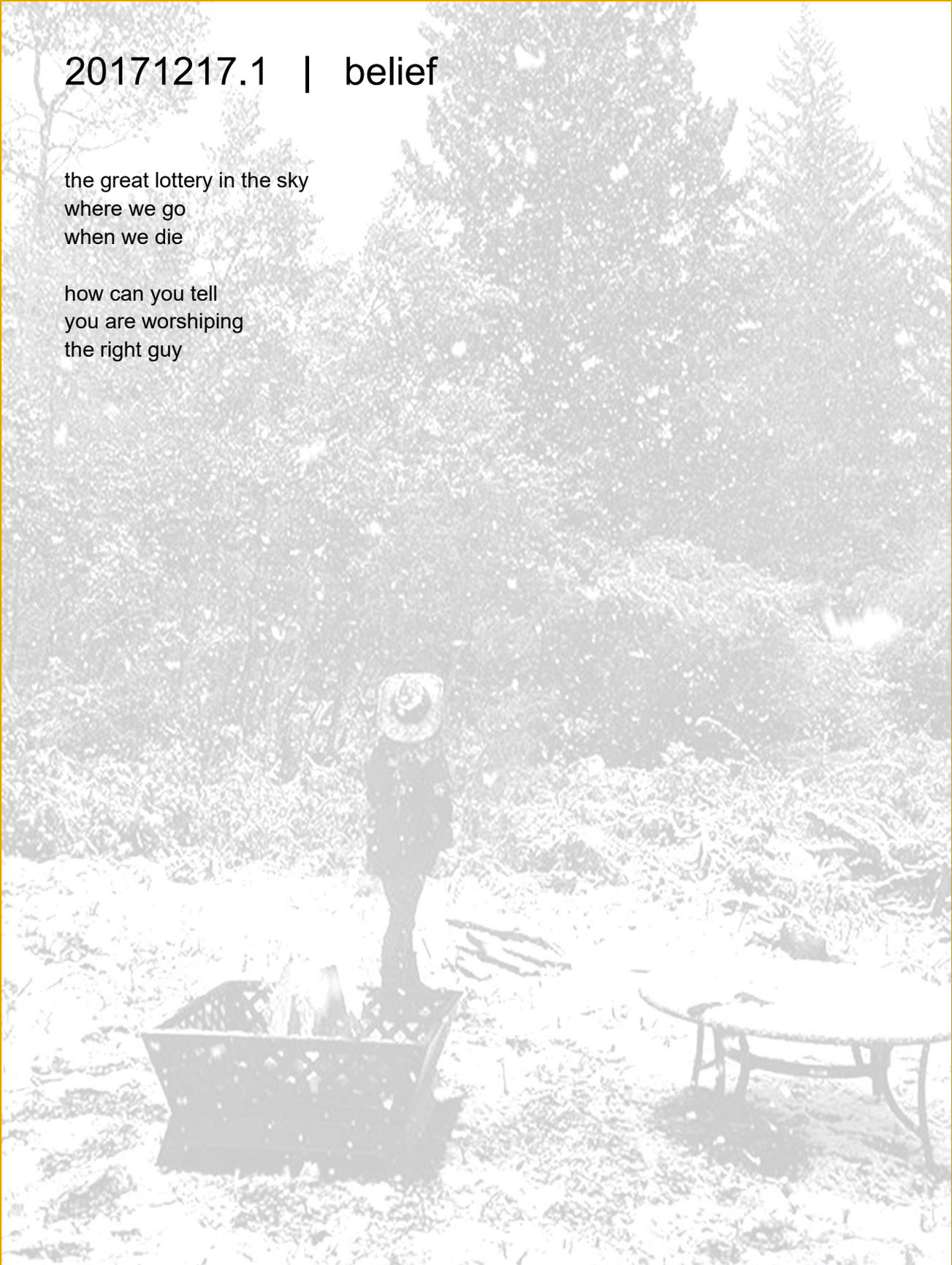
don't tell me you love me
don't tell me you care
don't tell me you need me
if you won't be there



20171217.1 | belief

the great lottery in the sky
where we go
when we die

how can you tell
you are worshiping
the right guy



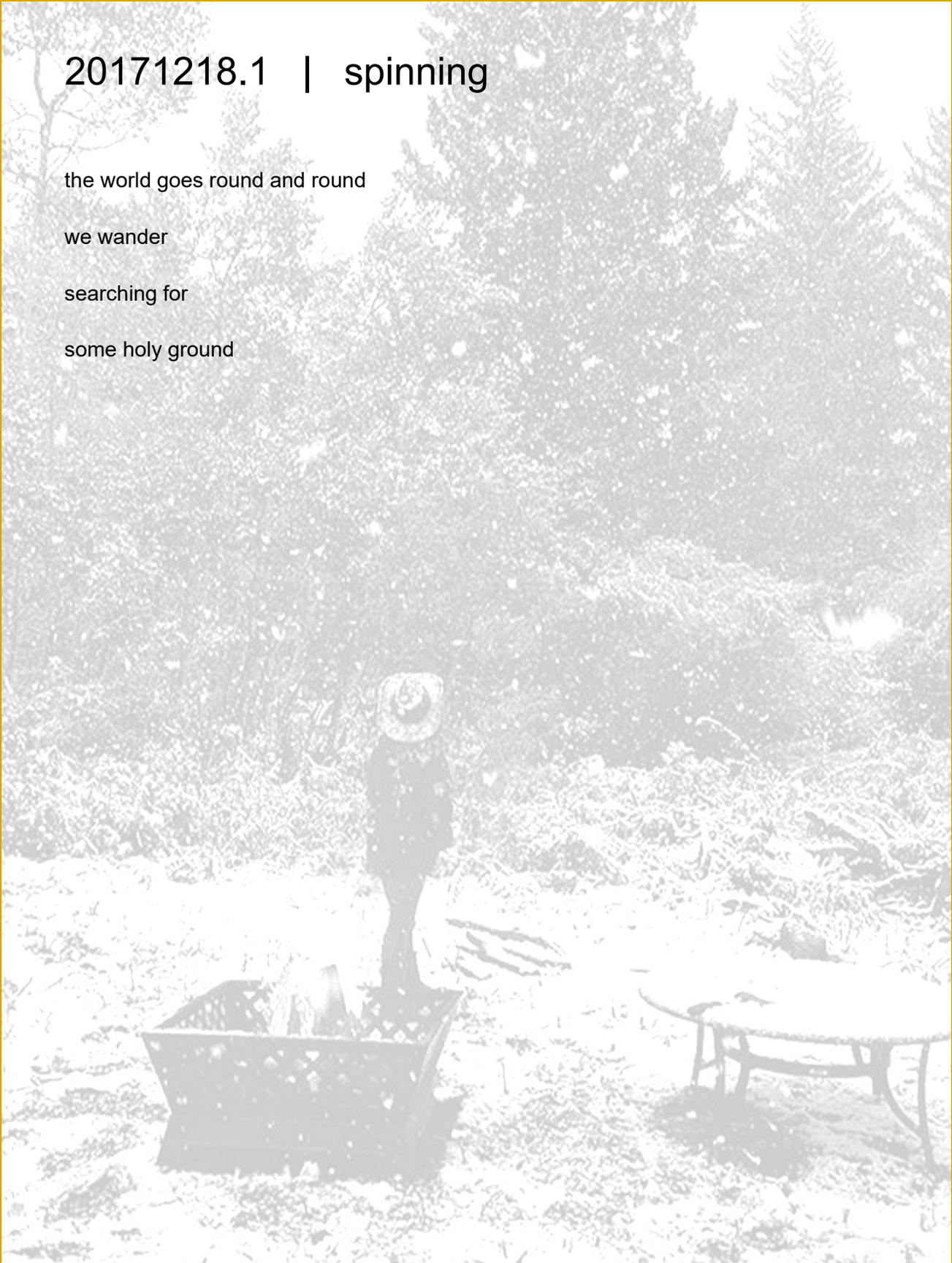
20171218.1 | spinning

the world goes round and round

we wander

searching for

some holy ground

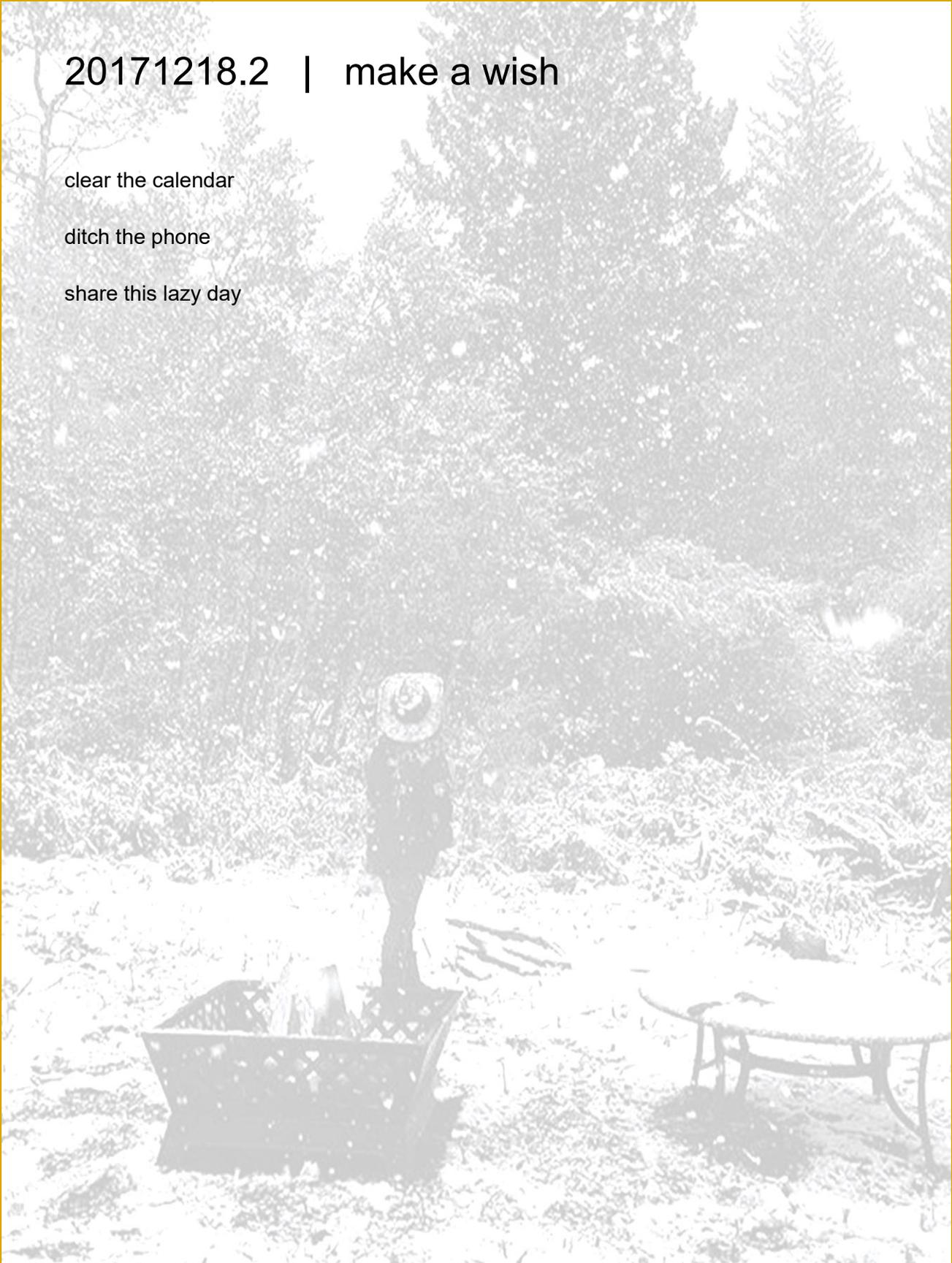


20171218.2 | make a wish

clear the calendar

ditch the phone

share this lazy day

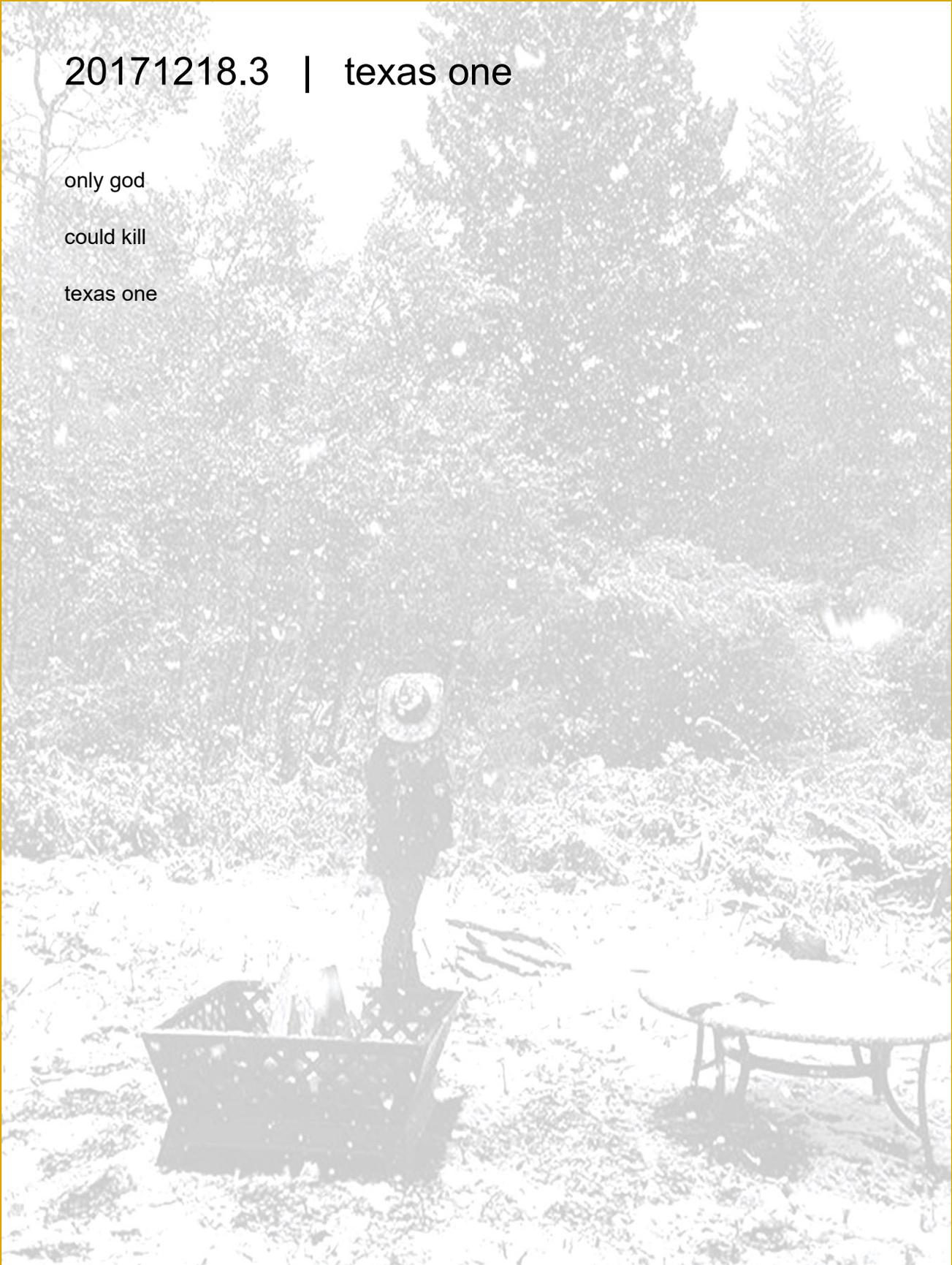


20171218.3 | texas one

only god

could kill

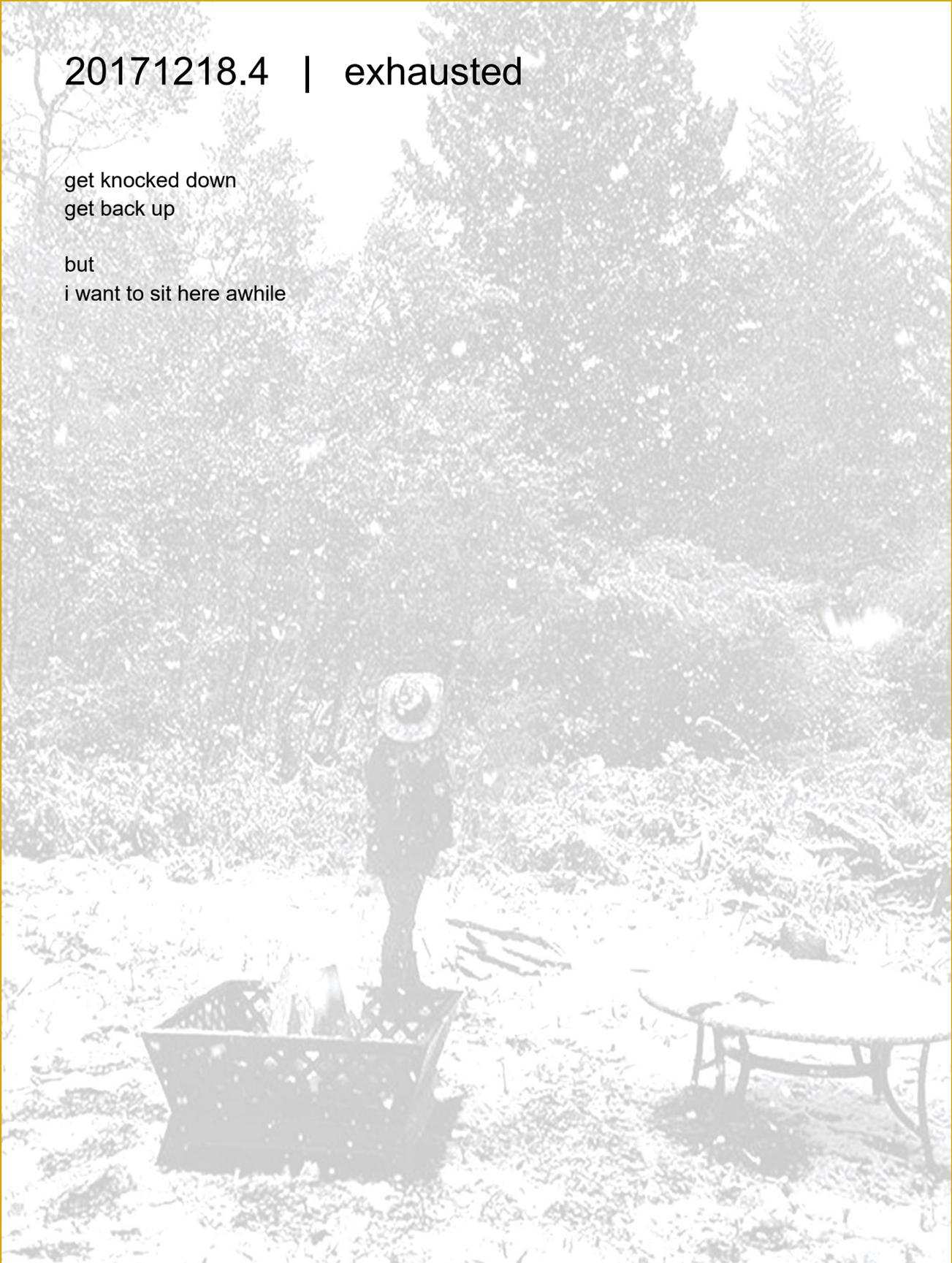
texas one



20171218.4 | exhausted

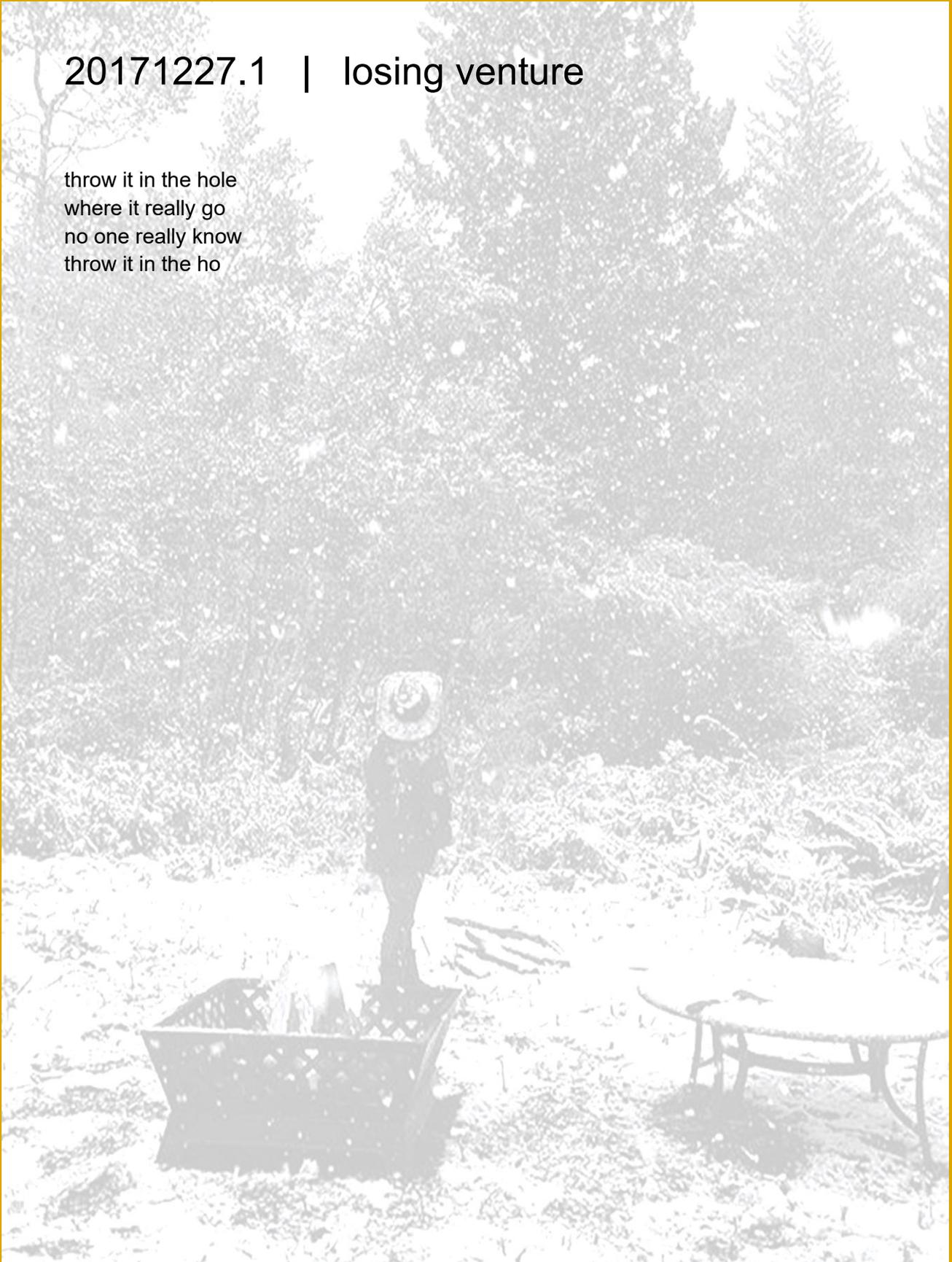
get knocked down
get back up

but
i want to sit here awhile



20171227.1 | losing venture

throw it in the hole
where it really go
no one really know
throw it in the ho



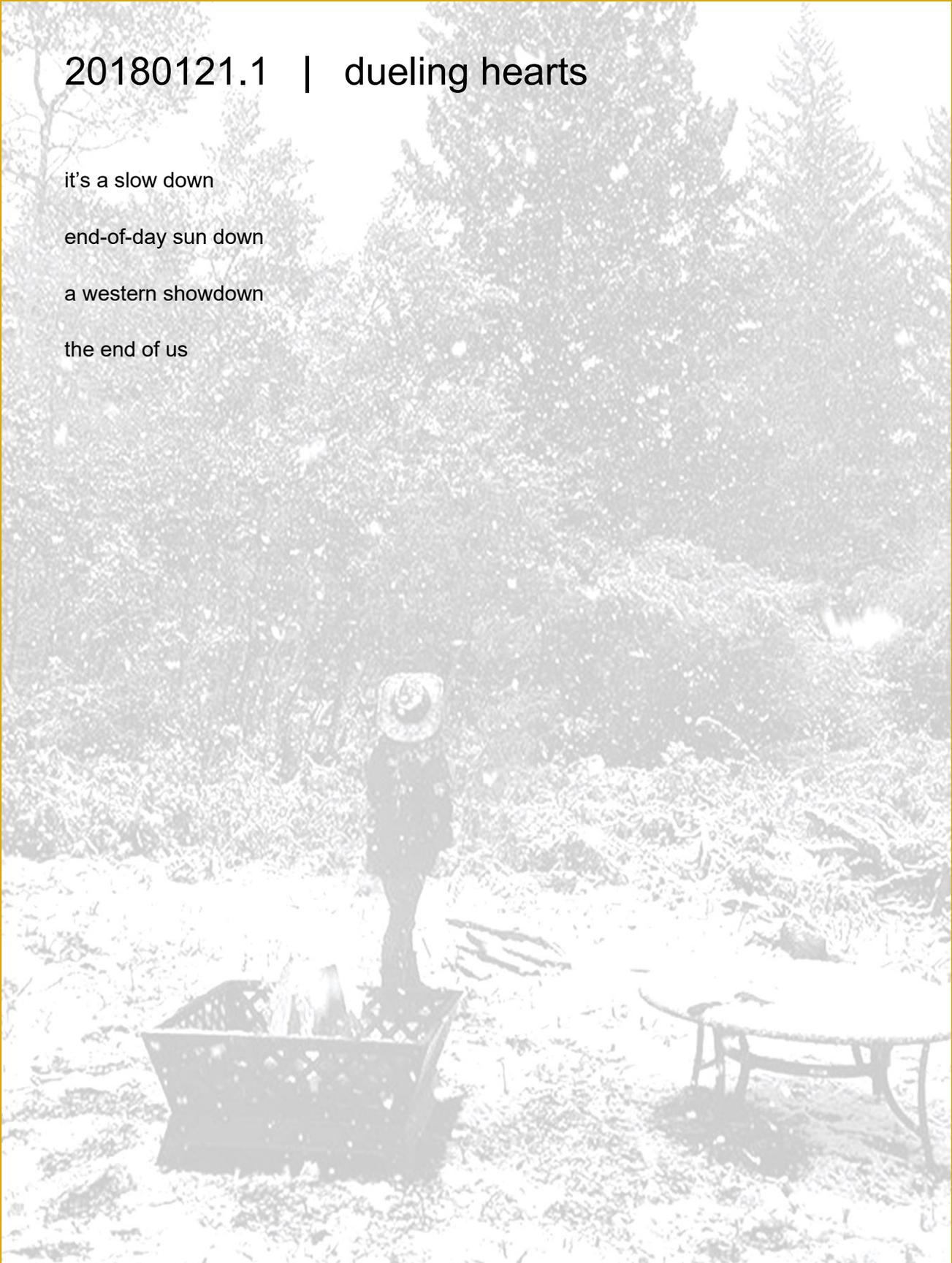
20180121.1 | dueling hearts

it's a slow down

end-of-day sun down

a western showdown

the end of us

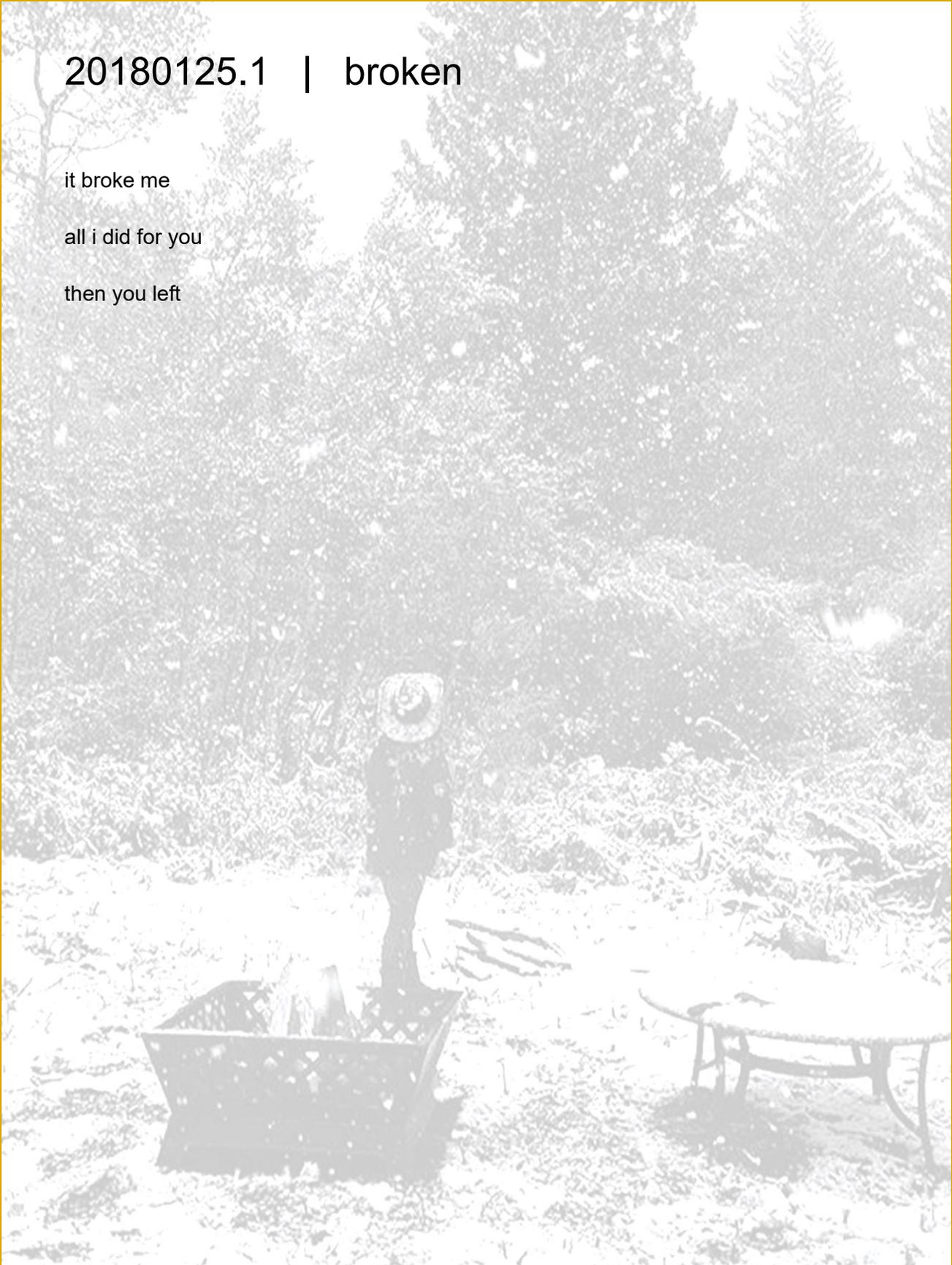


20180125.1 | broken

it broke me

all i did for you

then you left



20180224.1 | this is love

i want to gather every good gift
and lay it at your feet

all who were important
have taken a backseat

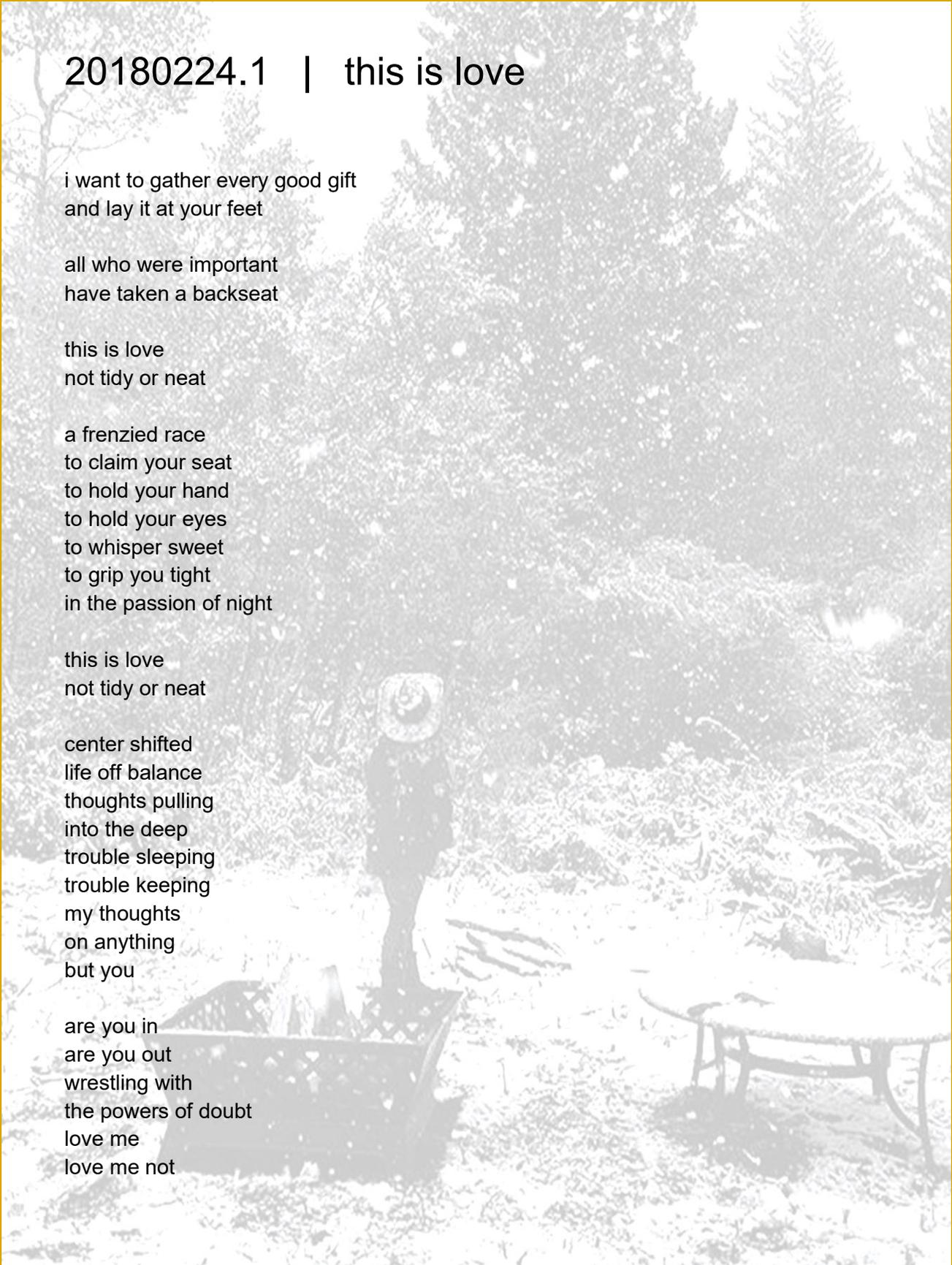
this is love
not tidy or neat

a frenzied race
to claim your seat
to hold your hand
to hold your eyes
to whisper sweet
to grip you tight
in the passion of night

this is love
not tidy or neat

center shifted
life off balance
thoughts pulling
into the deep
trouble sleeping
trouble keeping
my thoughts
on anything
but you

are you in
are you out
wrestling with
the powers of doubt
love me
love me not



if you leave
what have i got

memories

a painful rift
the cavern made
by loves retreat

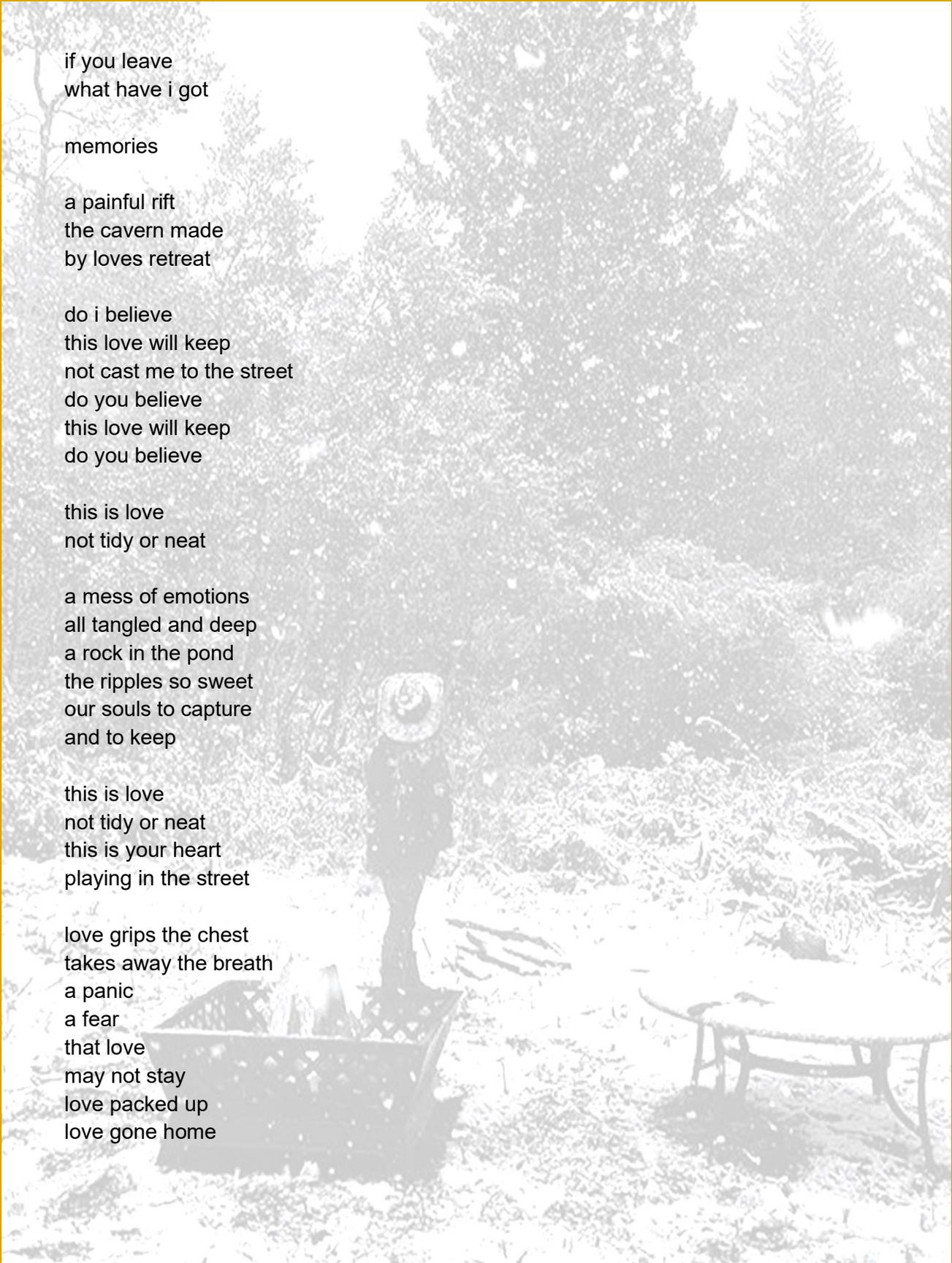
do i believe
this love will keep
not cast me to the street
do you believe
this love will keep
do you believe

this is love
not tidy or neat

a mess of emotions
all tangled and deep
a rock in the pond
the ripples so sweet
our souls to capture
and to keep

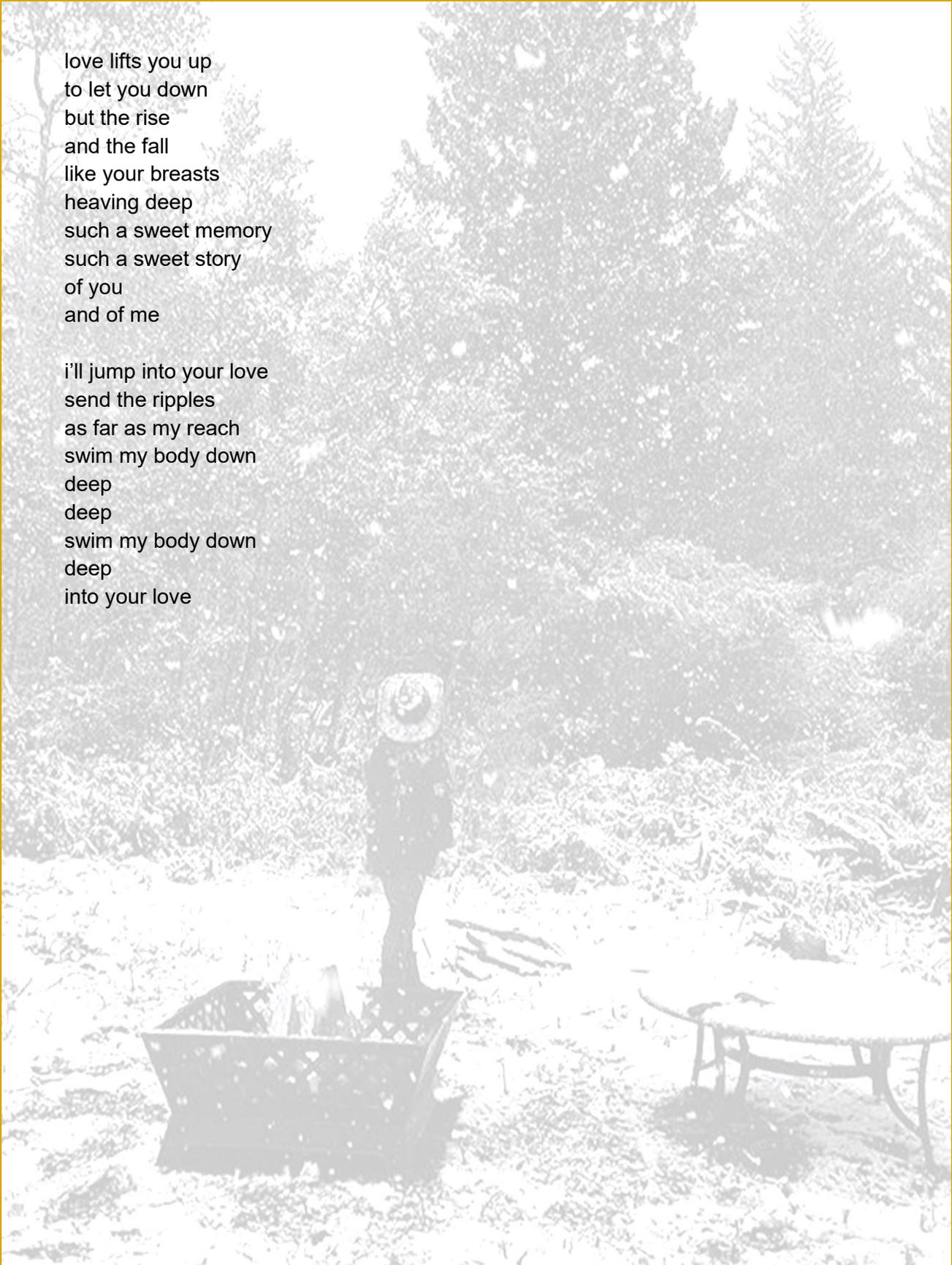
this is love
not tidy or neat
this is your heart
playing in the street

love grips the chest
takes away the breath
a panic
a fear
that love
may not stay
love packed up
love gone home



love lifts you up
to let you down
but the rise
and the fall
like your breasts
heaving deep
such a sweet memory
such a sweet story
of you
and of me

i'll jump into your love
send the ripples
as far as my reach
swim my body down
deep
deep
swim my body down
deep
into your love



20180227.1 | lost in love

i'm doing everything wrong

falling too fast

too soon

oversharing

overholding

overdisclosing

showing weakness

insecurity

this is a mess

i am a mess

where did the

calm

strong

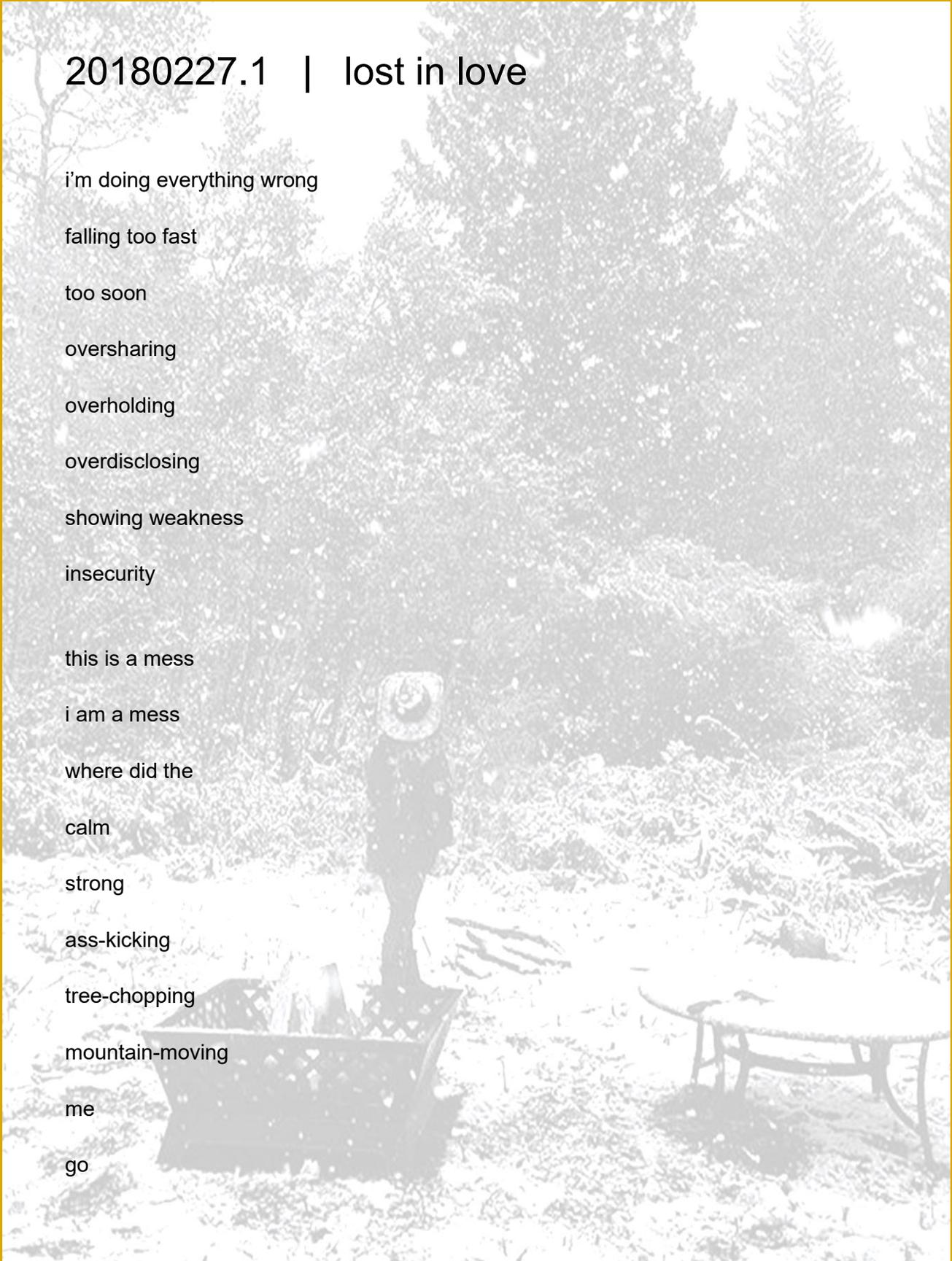
ass-kicking

tree-chopping

mountain-moving

me

go



20180227.2 | foreigner

to live

in another's

thoughts

heart

hopes

the strangest of all foreign lands

the land of love

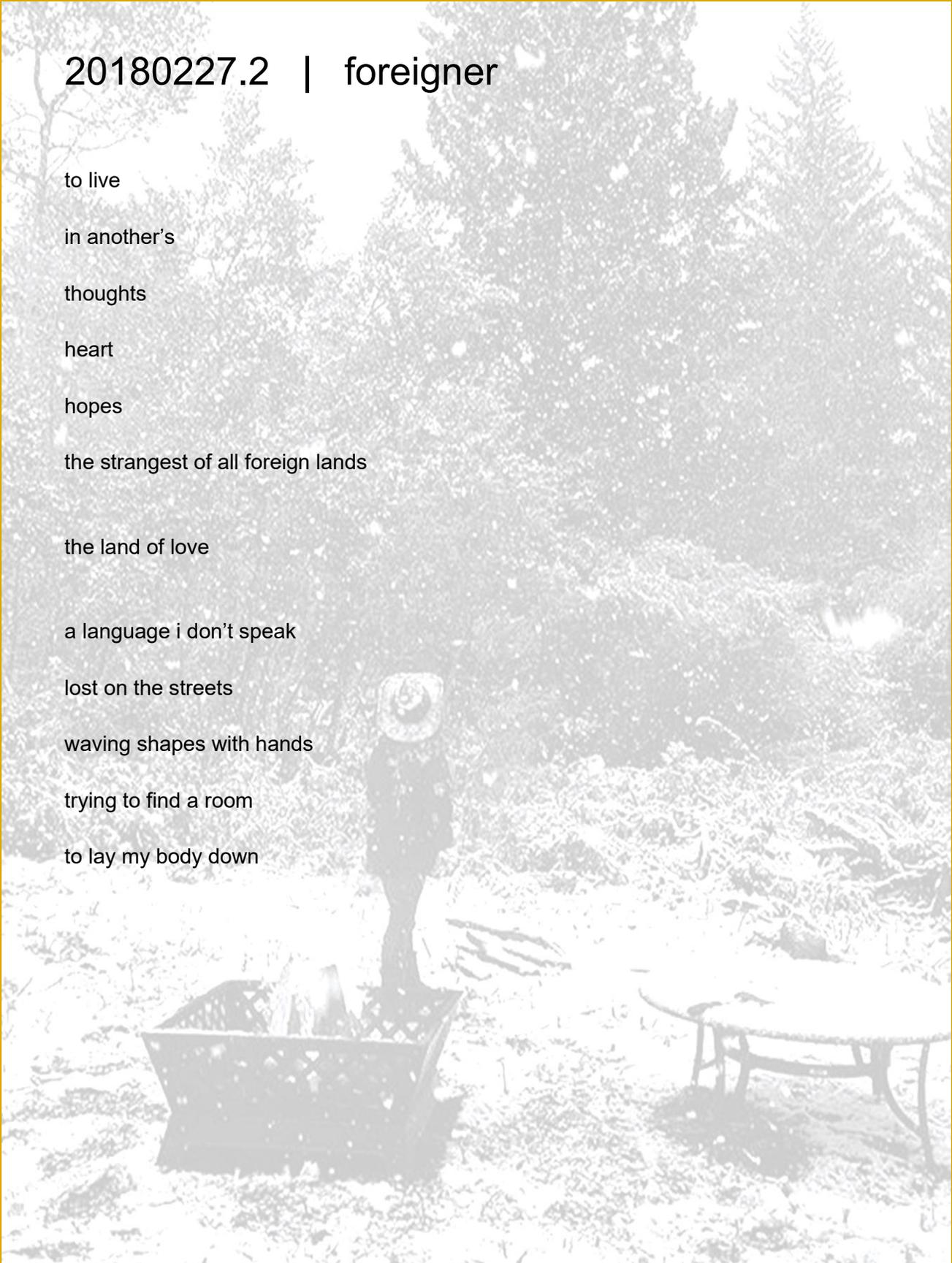
a language i don't speak

lost on the streets

waving shapes with hands

trying to find a room

to lay my body down

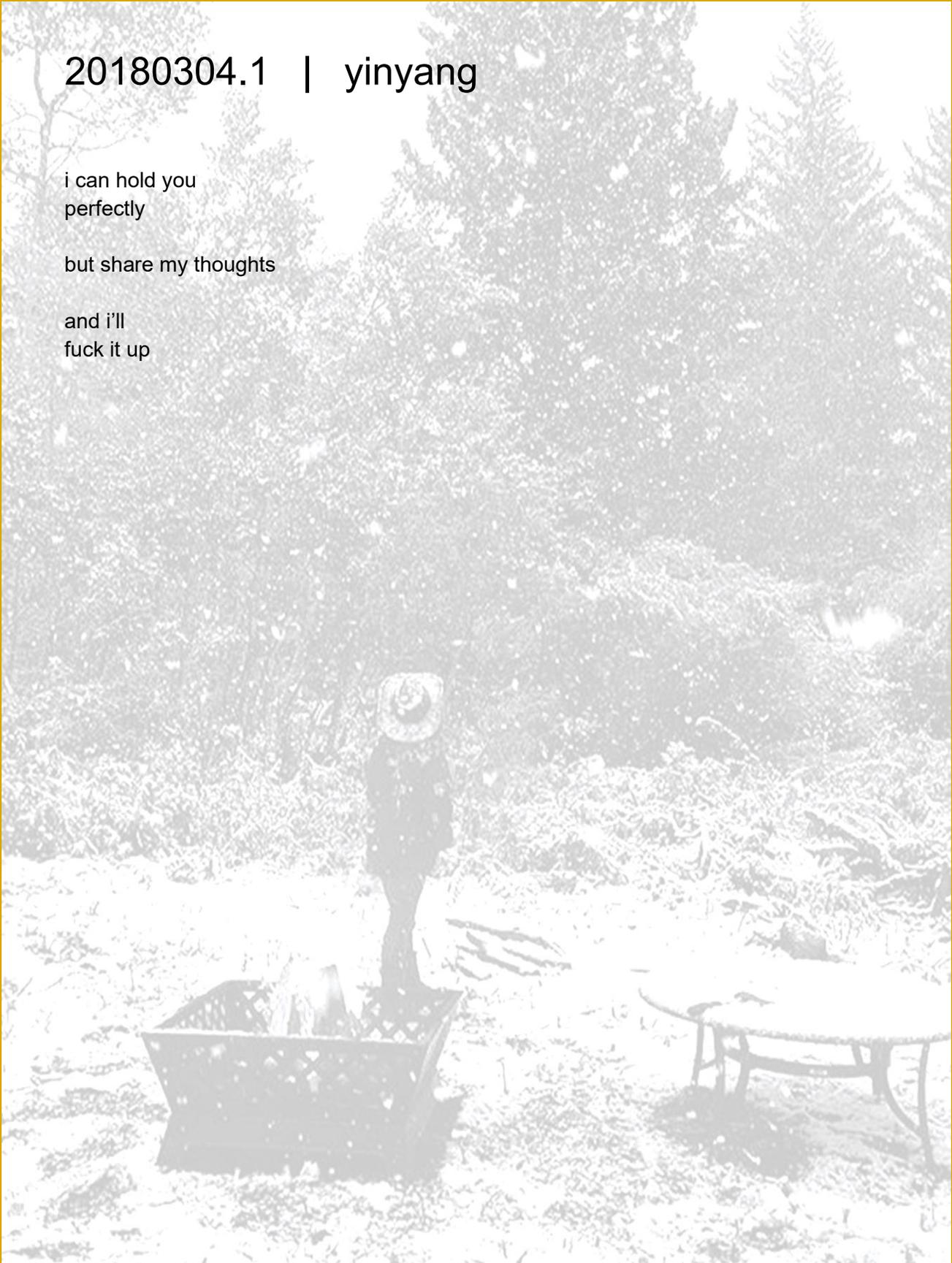


20180304.1 | yinyang

i can hold you
perfectly

but share my thoughts

and i'll
fuck it up



20180304.2 | rockies

there are green fields in ireland

yellow hot sands in africa

jungle waterfalls in brazil

earth-fulls of places

it's the rockies for me

canyons

rivers

cliffs

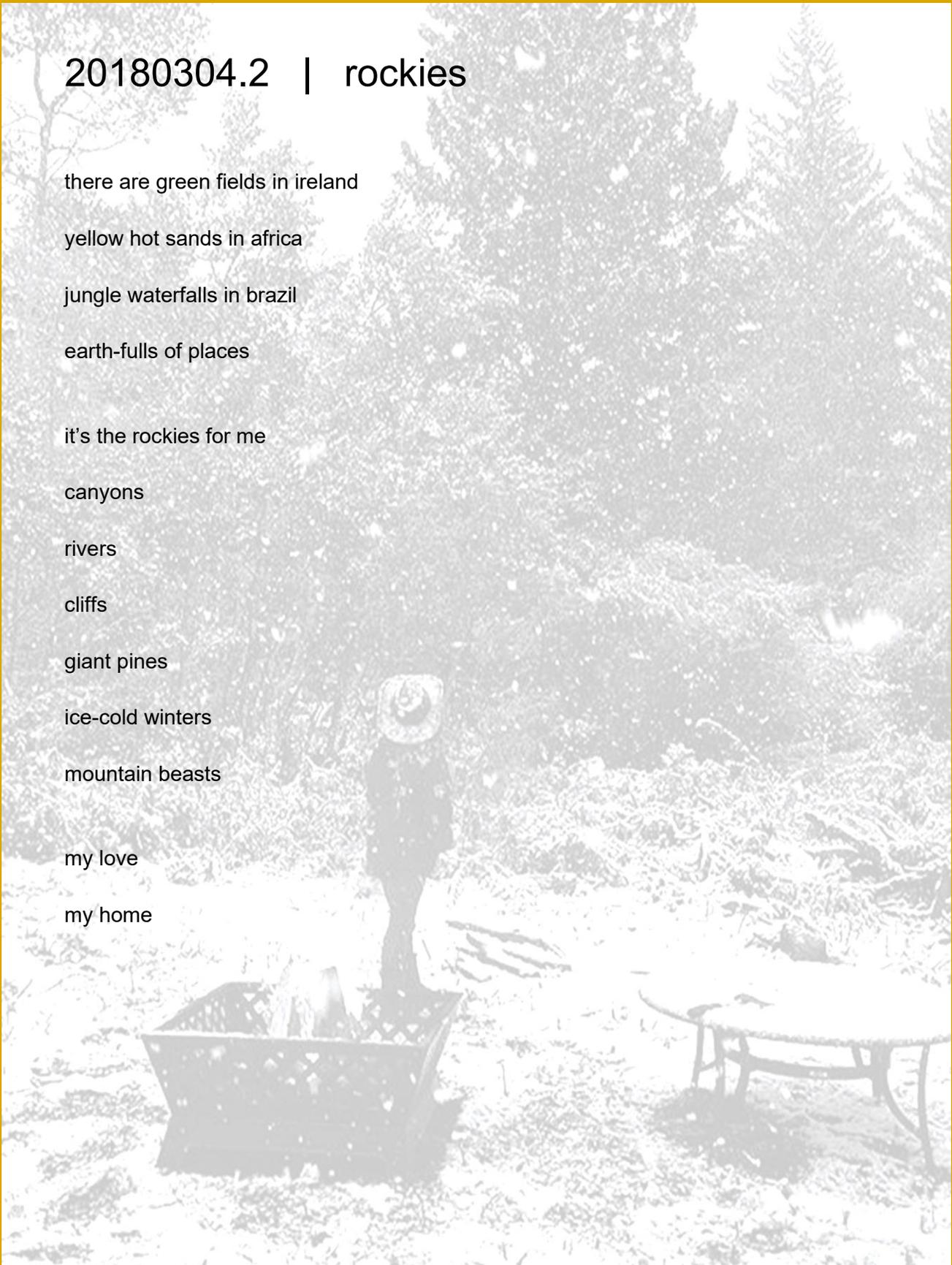
giant pines

ice-cold winters

mountain beasts

my love

my home



20180308.1 | misaligned

today i spend working

like yesterday

and tomorrow

i did not hold my love

did not hold my child

did not hold my parents

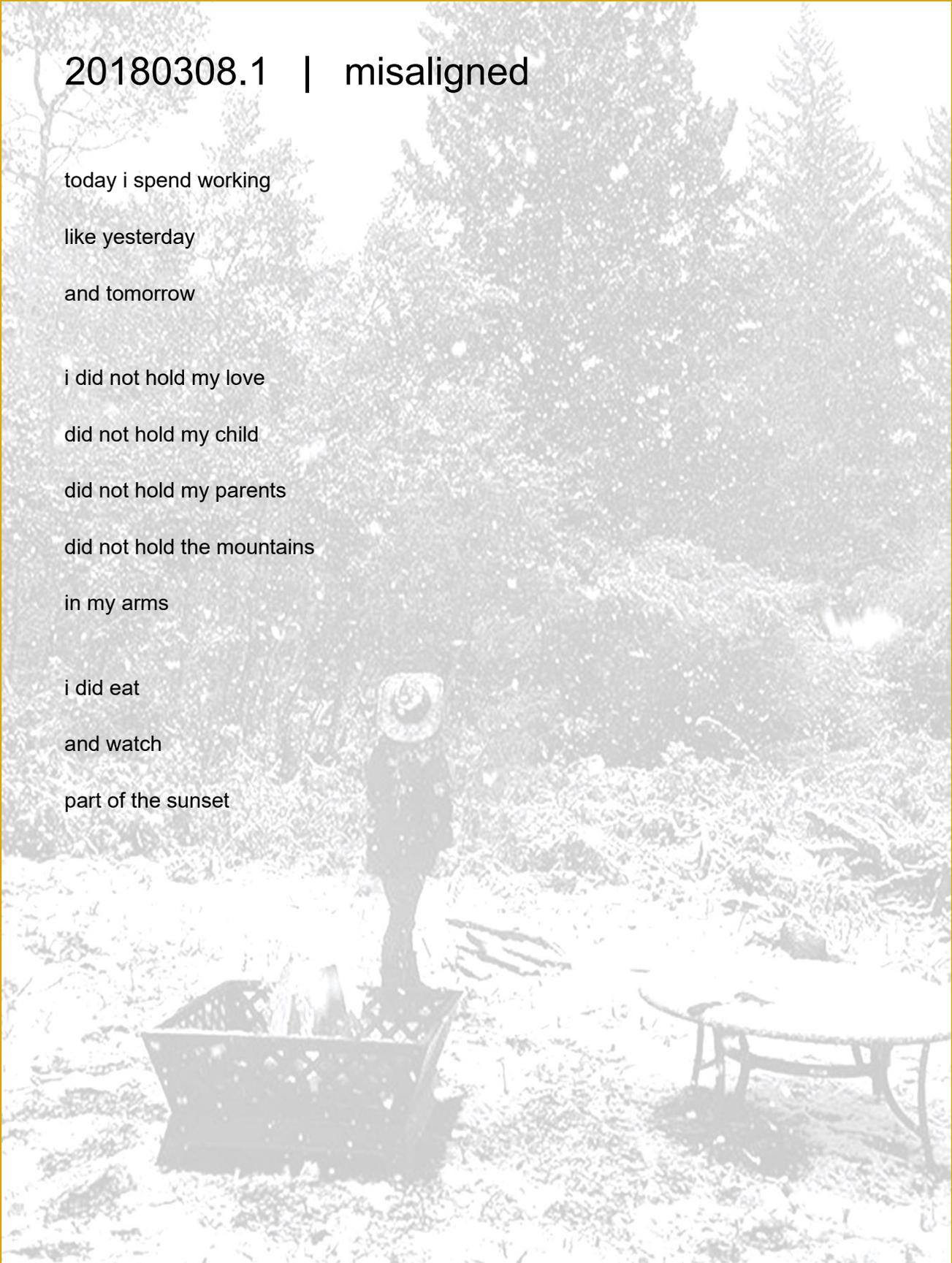
did not hold the mountains

in my arms

i did eat

and watch

part of the sunset



20180317.1 | corner

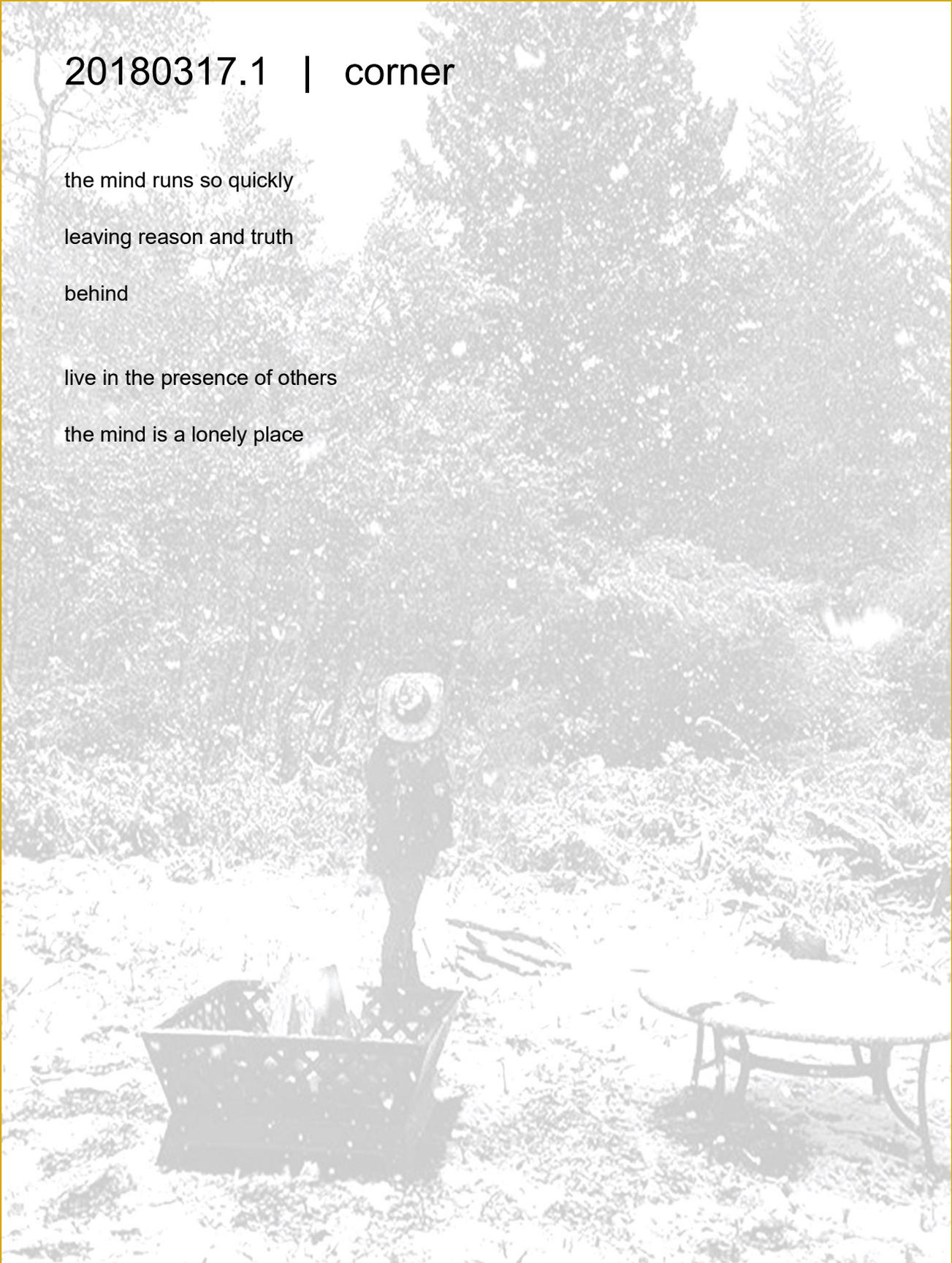
the mind runs so quickly

leaving reason and truth

behind

live in the presence of others

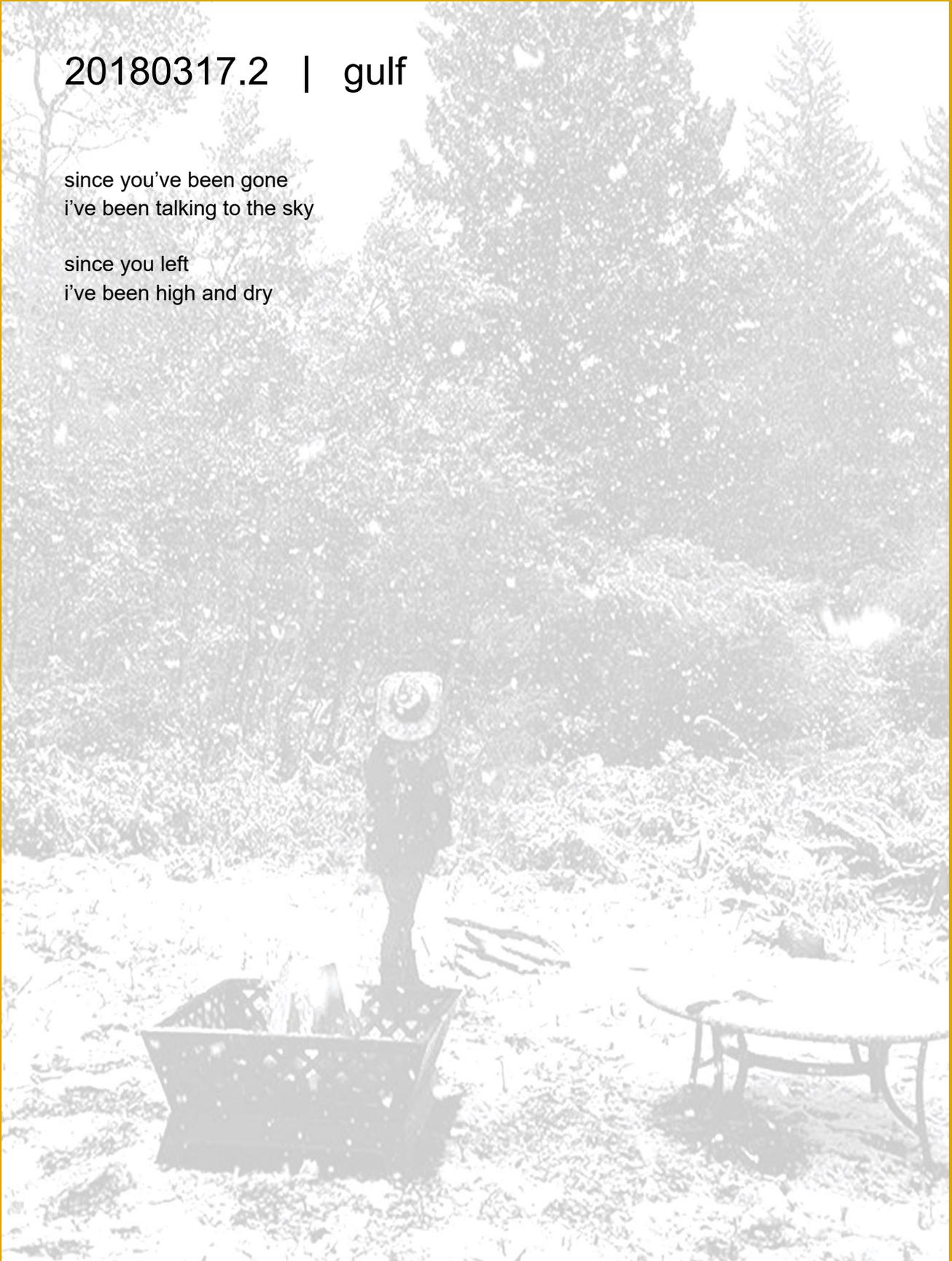
the mind is a lonely place



20180317.2 | gulf

since you've been gone
i've been talking to the sky

since you left
i've been high and dry



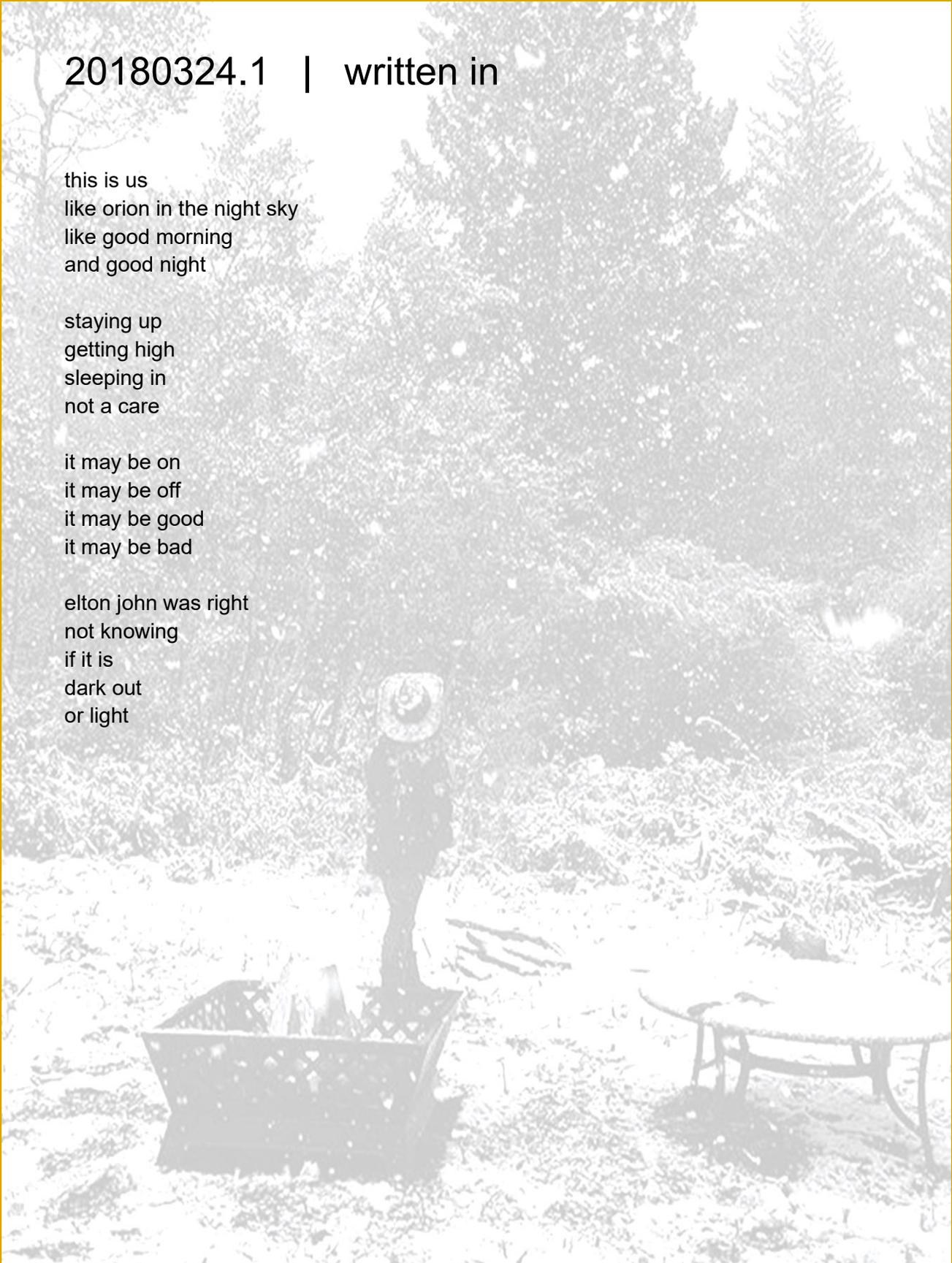
20180324.1 | written in

this is us
like orion in the night sky
like good morning
and good night

staying up
getting high
sleeping in
not a care

it may be on
it may be off
it may be good
it may be bad

elton john was right
not knowing
if it is
dark out
or light



20180328.1 | numeroloshe

your nose twitches
and that
if fucking adorable

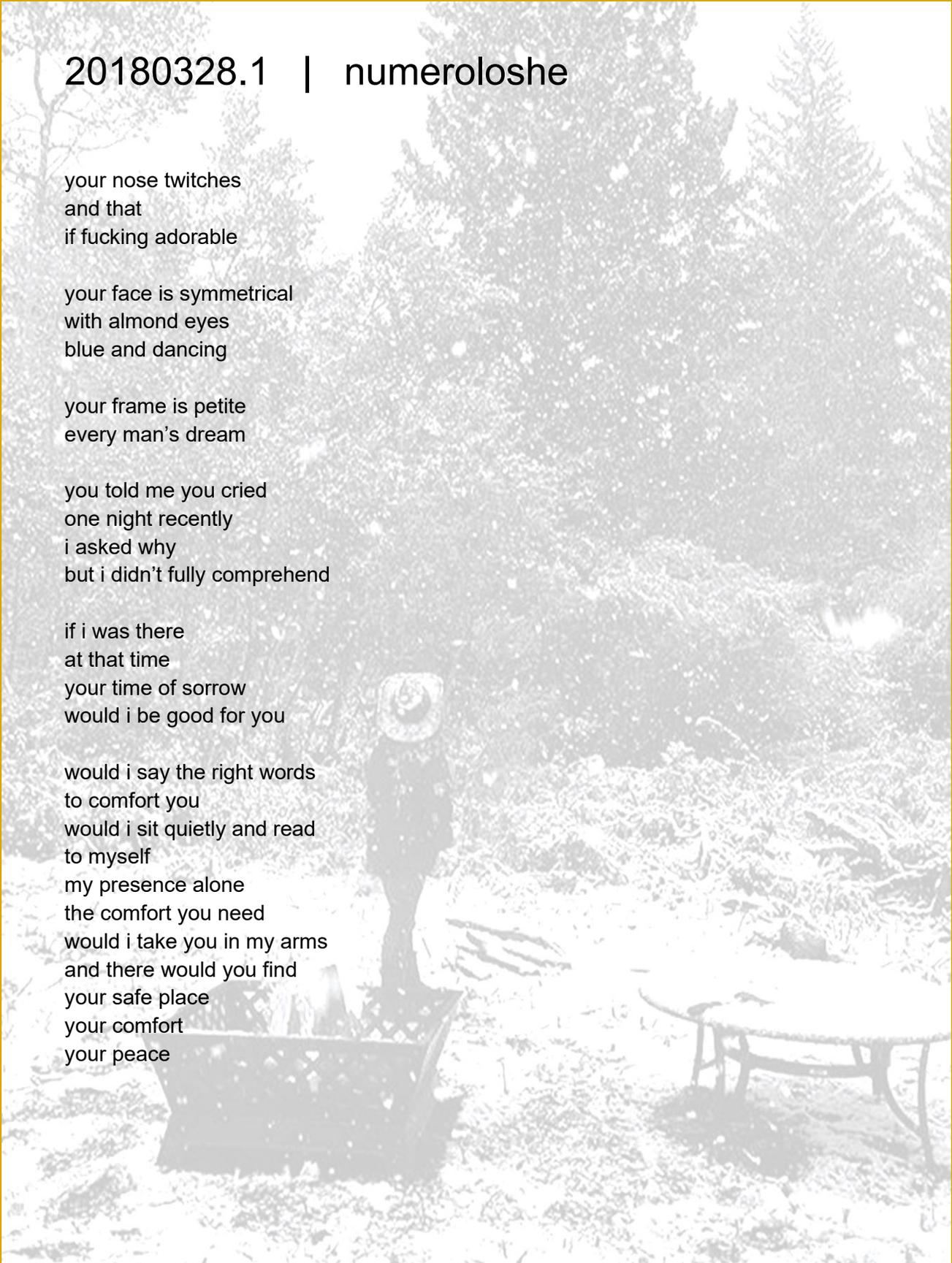
your face is symmetrical
with almond eyes
blue and dancing

your frame is petite
every man's dream

you told me you cried
one night recently
i asked why
but i didn't fully comprehend

if i was there
at that time
your time of sorrow
would i be good for you

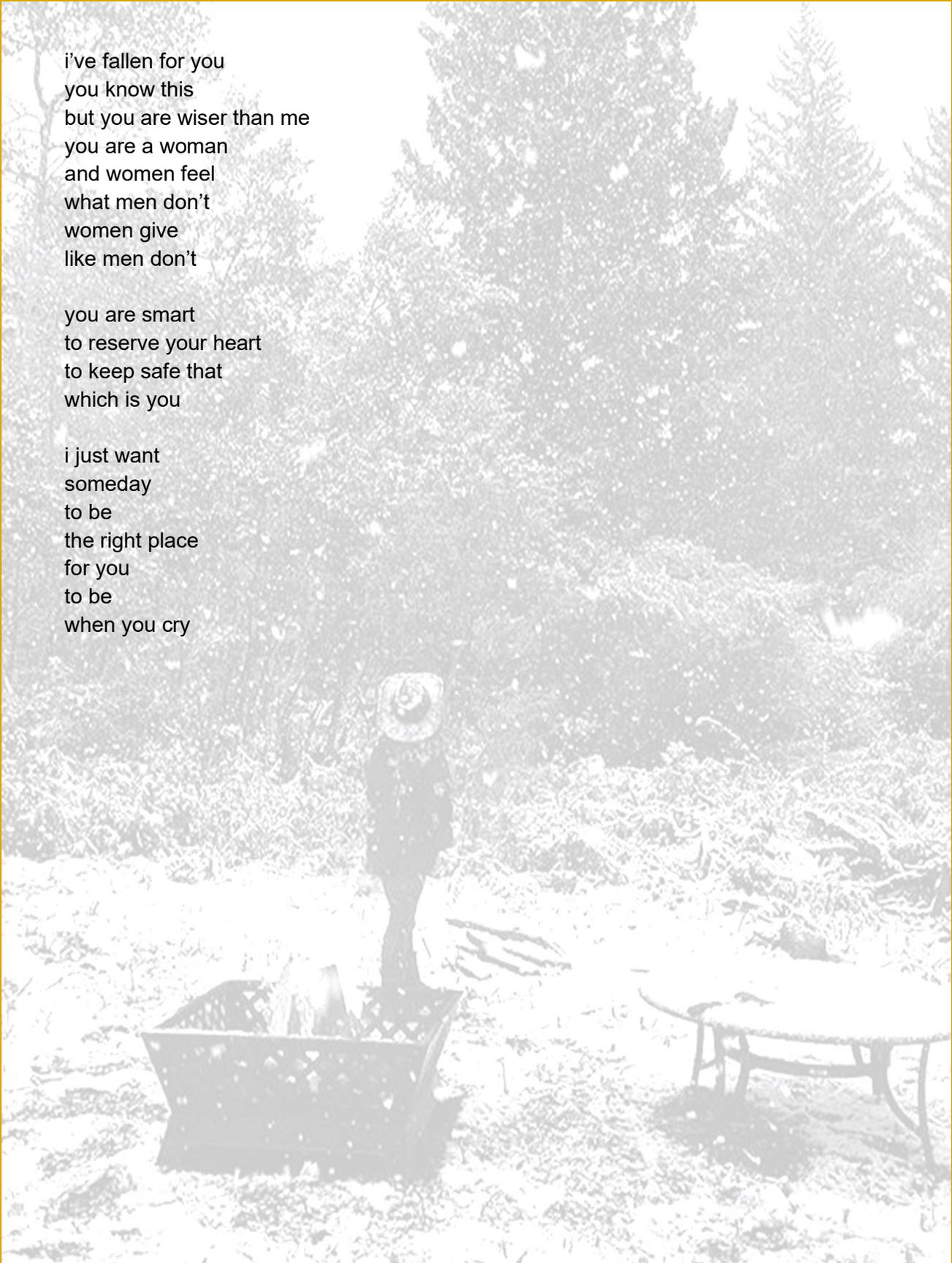
would i say the right words
to comfort you
would i sit quietly and read
to myself
my presence alone
the comfort you need
would i take you in my arms
and there would you find
your safe place
your comfort
your peace



i've fallen for you
you know this
but you are wiser than me
you are a woman
and women feel
what men don't
women give
like men don't

you are smart
to reserve your heart
to keep safe that
which is you

i just want
someday
to be
the right place
for you
to be
when you cry

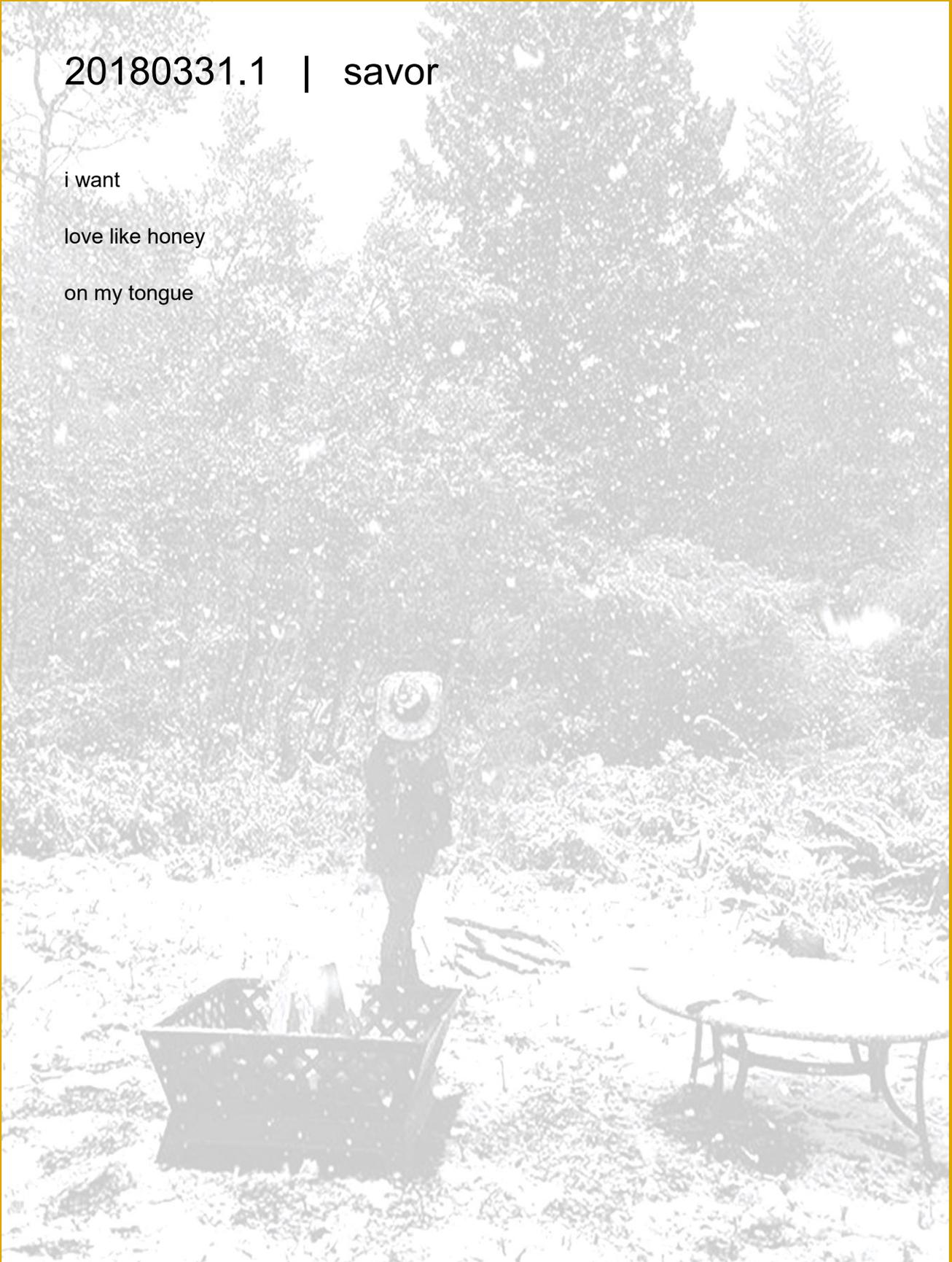


20180331.1 | savor

i want

love like honey

on my tongue



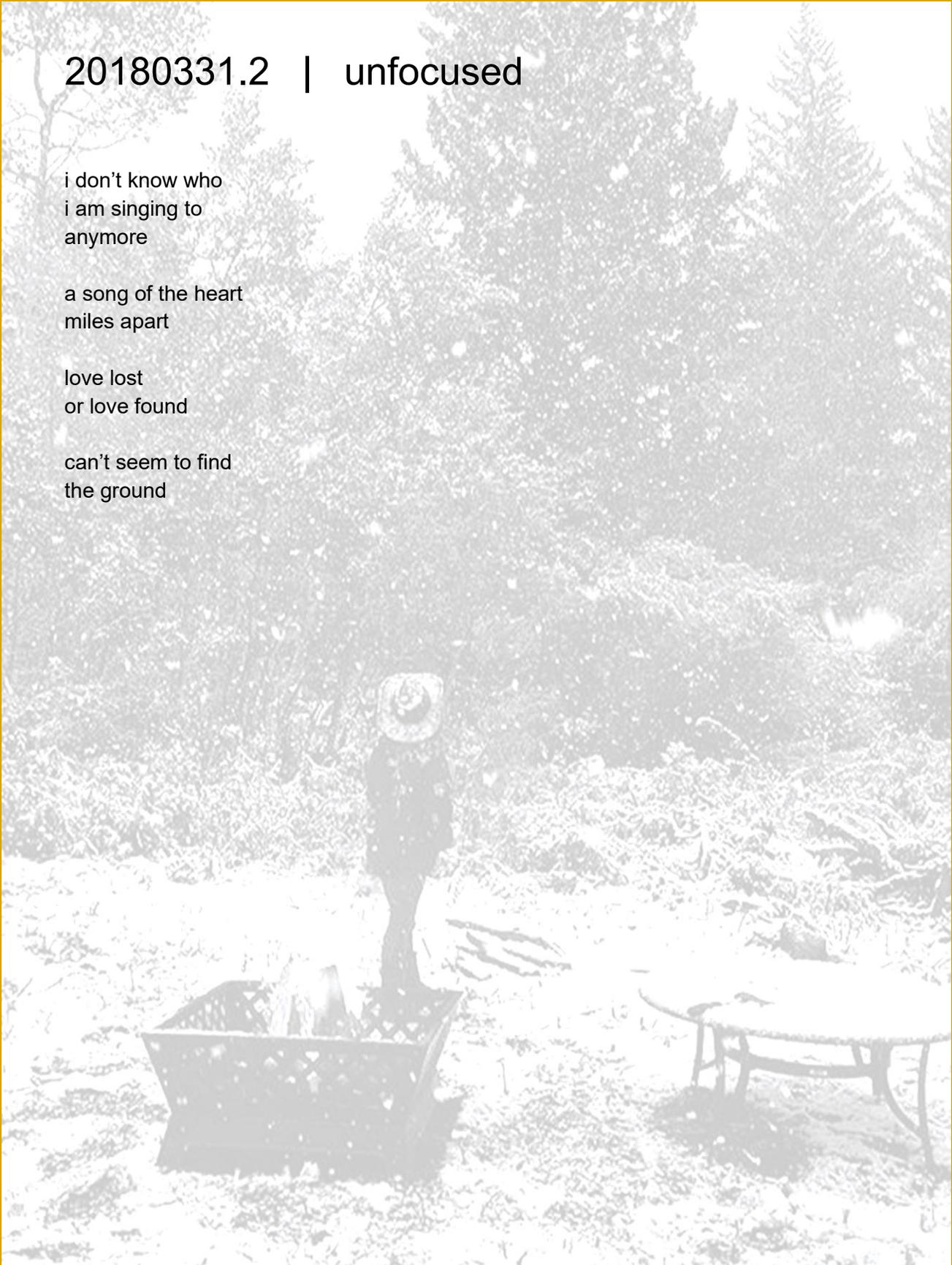
20180331.2 | unfocused

i don't know who
i am singing to
anymore

a song of the heart
miles apart

love lost
or love found

can't seem to find
the ground



20180331.3 | long distance love

i'm with you
but I feel alone

time apart
miles away

how goddamn long
is this day

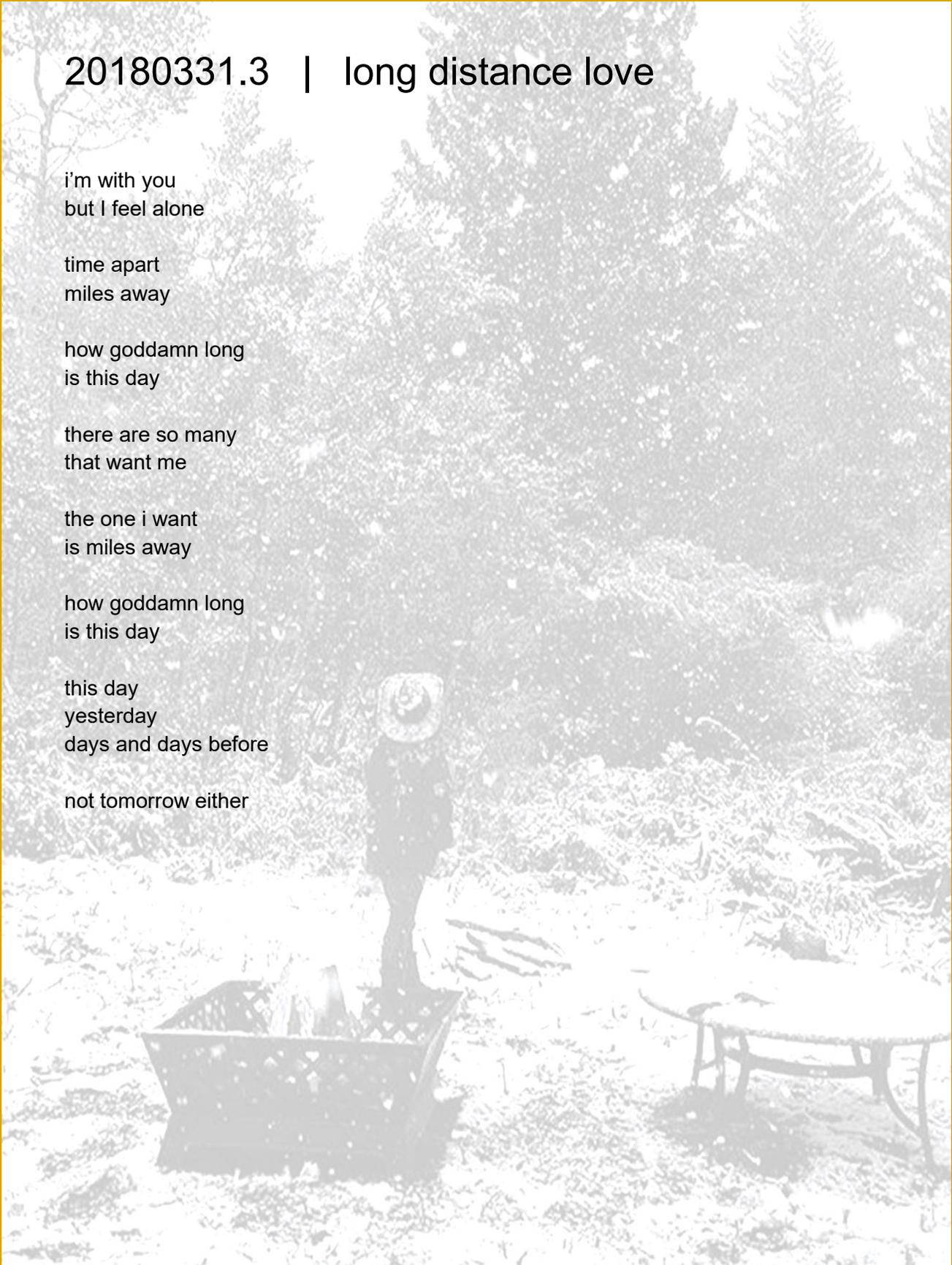
there are so many
that want me

the one i want
is miles away

how goddamn long
is this day

this day
yesterday
days and days before

not tomorrow either



20180331.4 | simple man

you want magic

but i'm just a train conductor

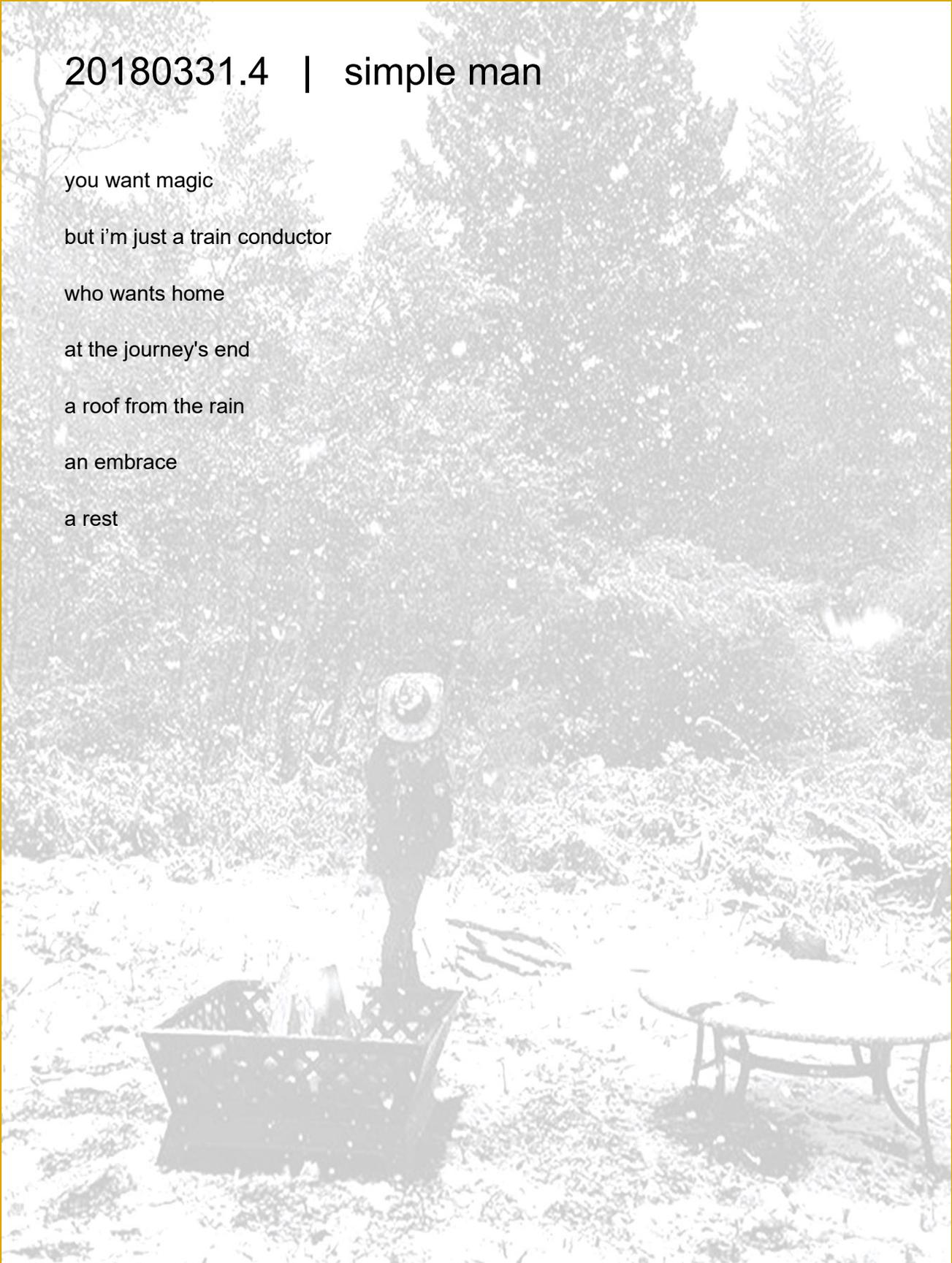
who wants home

at the journey's end

a roof from the rain

an embrace

a rest



20180401.1 | mosaic

you broke me into pieces
before you walked out the door

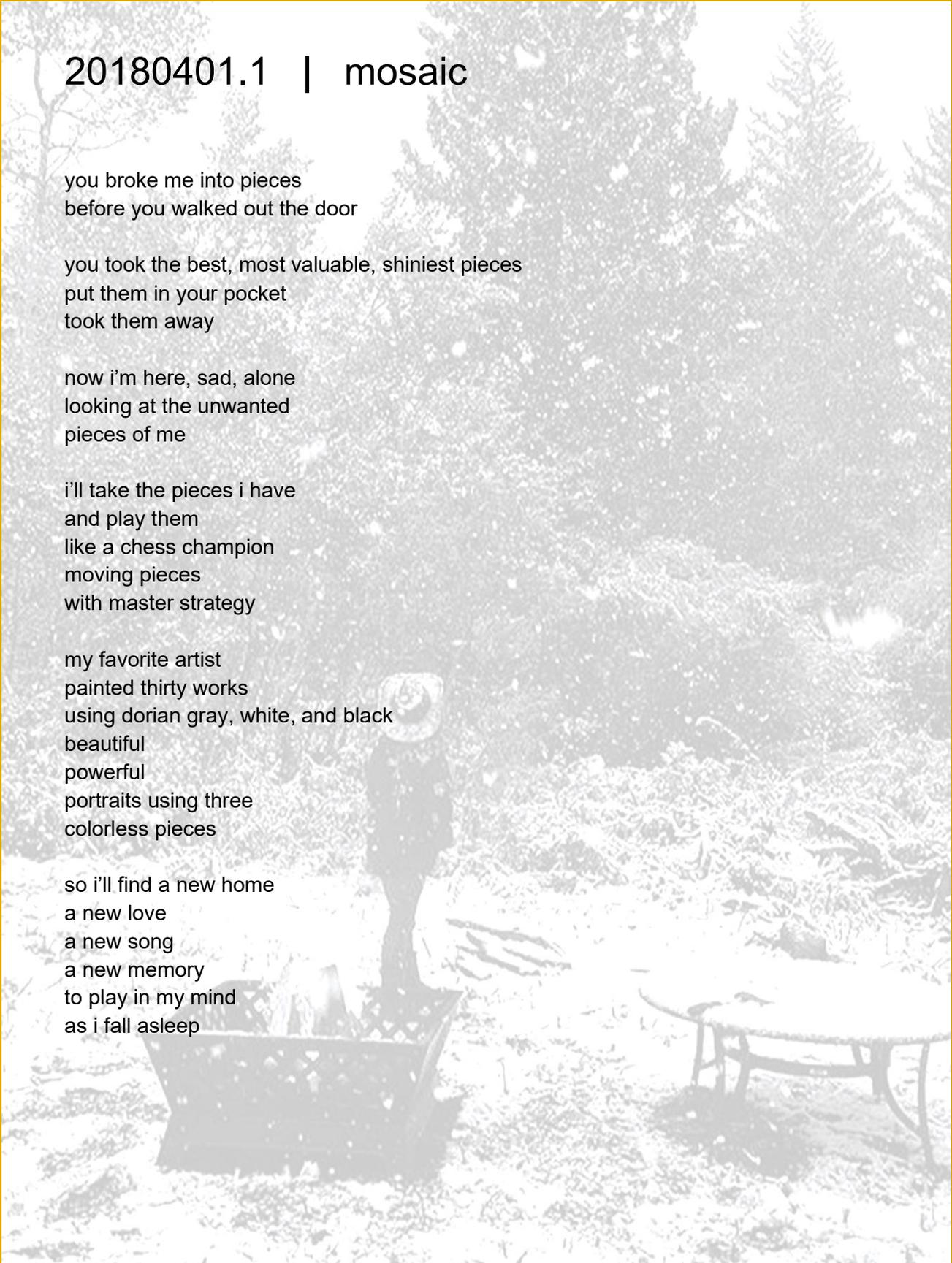
you took the best, most valuable, shiniest pieces
put them in your pocket
took them away

now i'm here, sad, alone
looking at the unwanted
pieces of me

i'll take the pieces i have
and play them
like a chess champion
moving pieces
with master strategy

my favorite artist
painted thirty works
using dorian gray, white, and black
beautiful
powerful
portraits using three
colorless pieces

so i'll find a new home
a new love
a new song
a new memory
to play in my mind
as i fall asleep

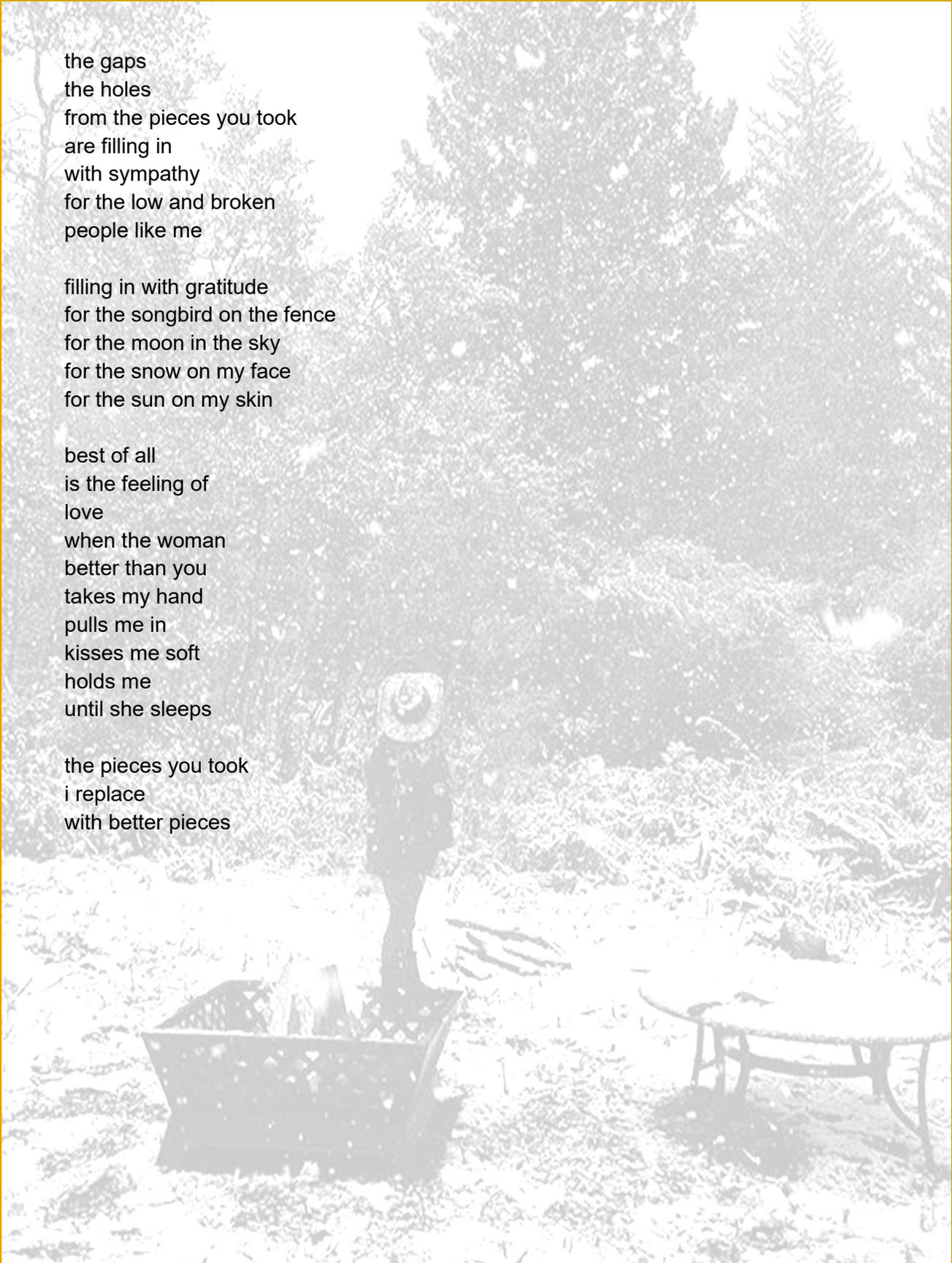


the gaps
the holes
from the pieces you took
are filling in
with sympathy
for the low and broken
people like me

filling in with gratitude
for the songbird on the fence
for the moon in the sky
for the snow on my face
for the sun on my skin

best of all
is the feeling of
love
when the woman
better than you
takes my hand
pulls me in
kisses me soft
holds me
until she sleeps

the pieces you took
i replace
with better pieces

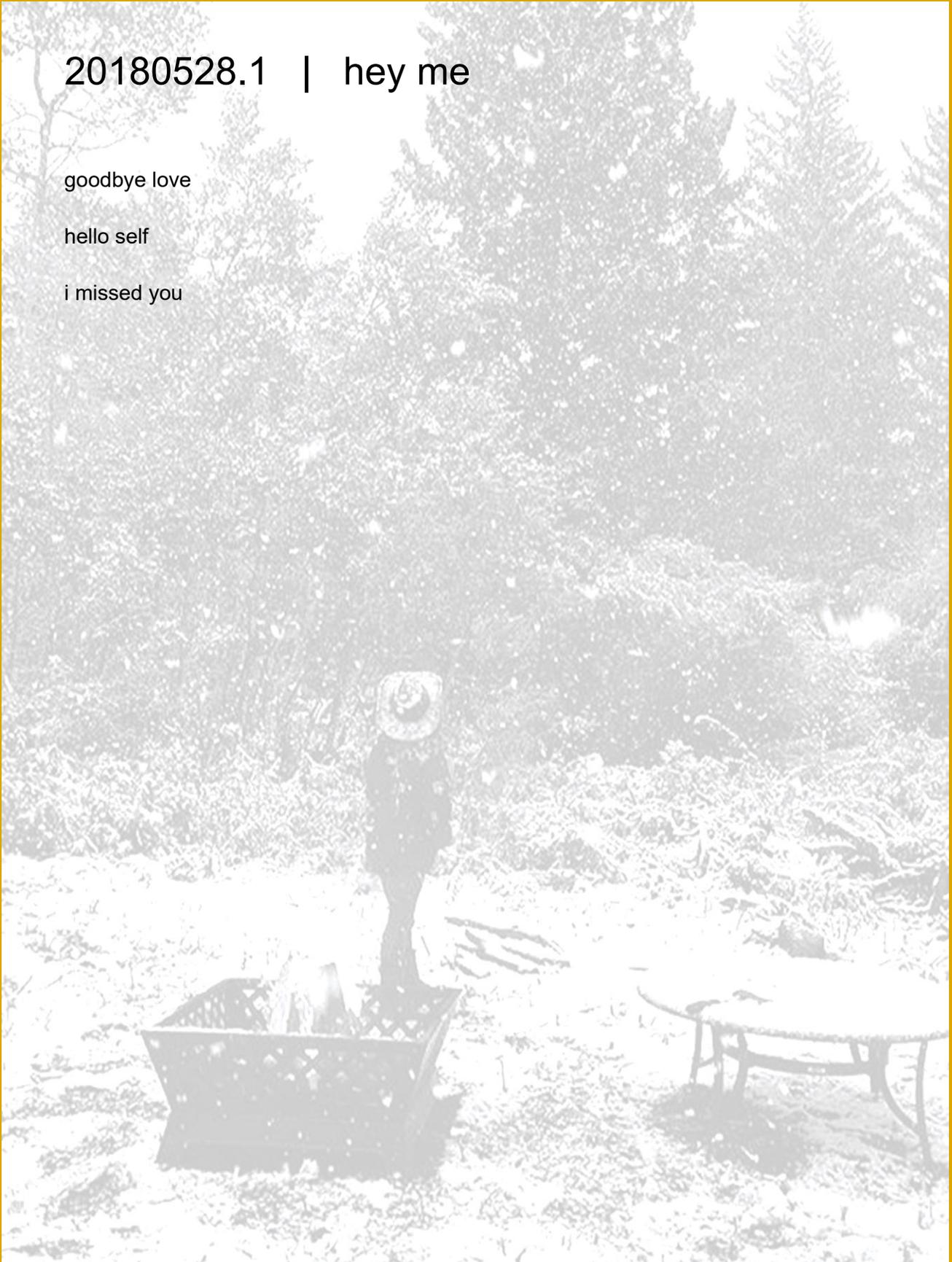


20180528.1 | hey me

goodbye love

hello self

i missed you



20180528.2 | alone together

women
have come
and have gone

but the moon
at 3 a.m.
while the world sleeps
is the same

it waits for me
to rise
and smoke

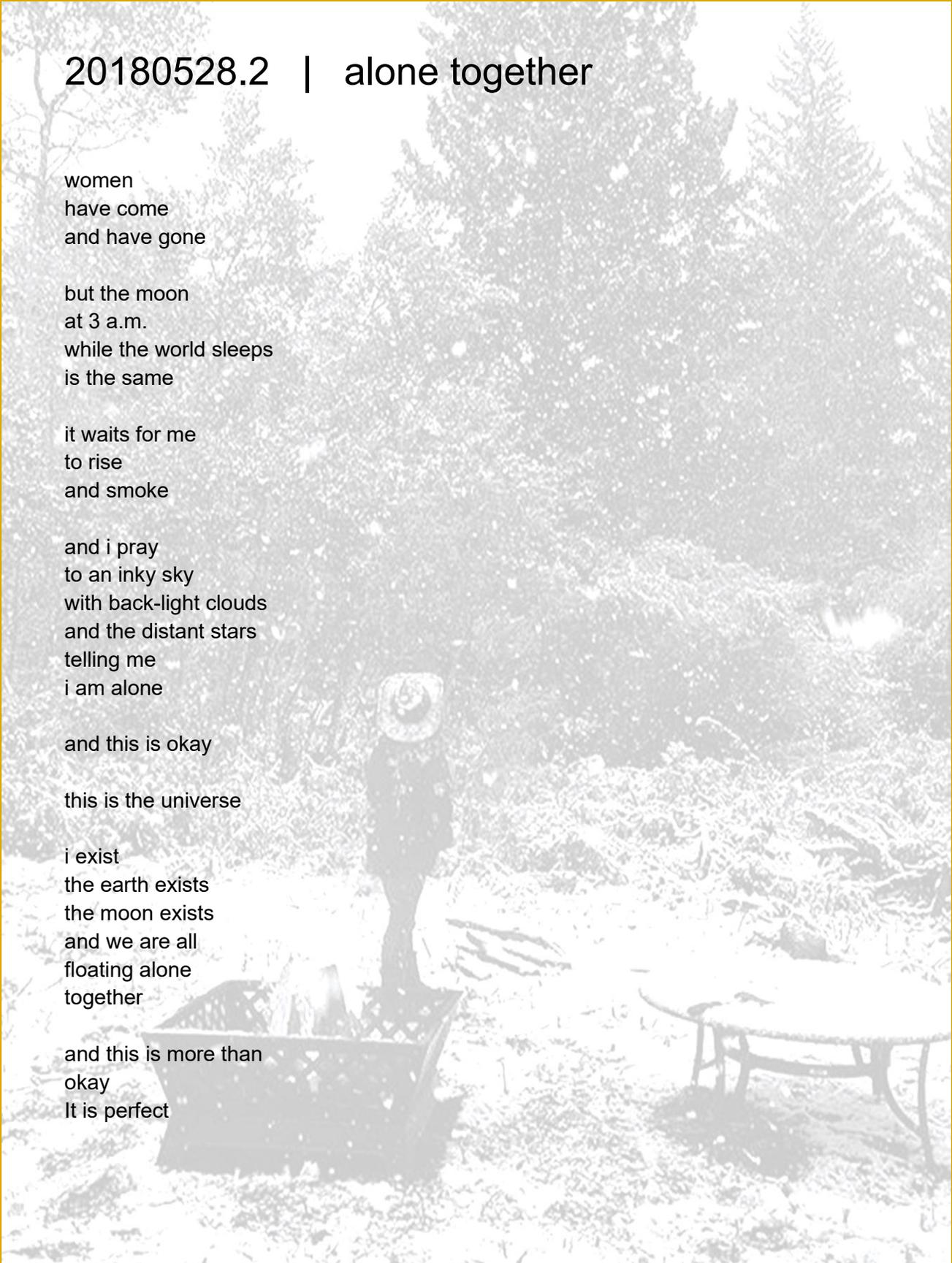
and i pray
to an inky sky
with back-light clouds
and the distant stars
telling me
i am alone

and this is okay

this is the universe

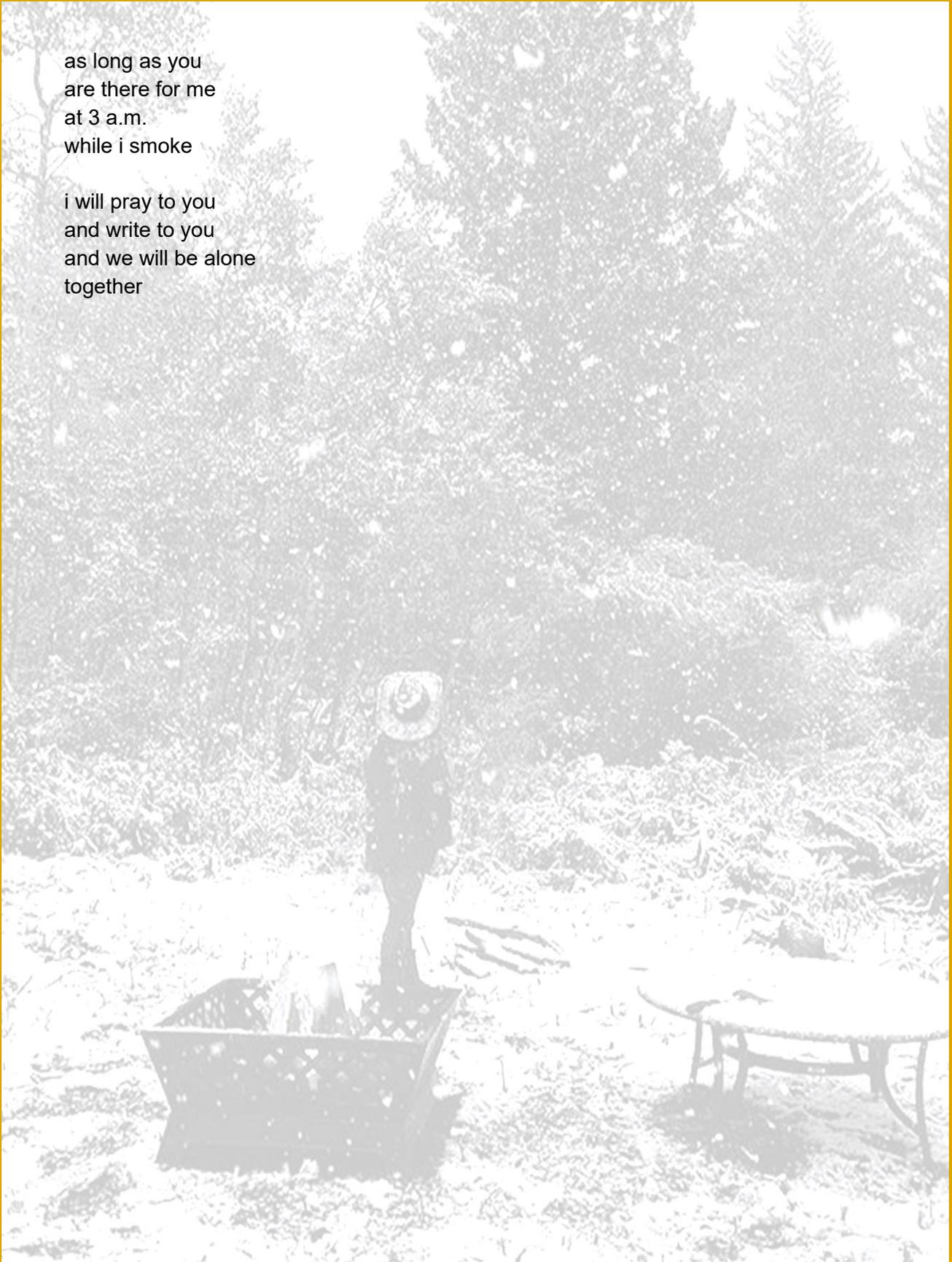
i exist
the earth exists
the moon exists
and we are all
floating alone
together

and this is more than
okay
It is perfect



as long as you
are there for me
at 3 a.m.
while i smoke

i will pray to you
and write to you
and we will be alone
together



20180528.3 | sand thru fingers

my hands are empty

but i have held so very much

lovers

infants

gold

soil

so much as passed
through my hands

eternity

one touch

one clasp

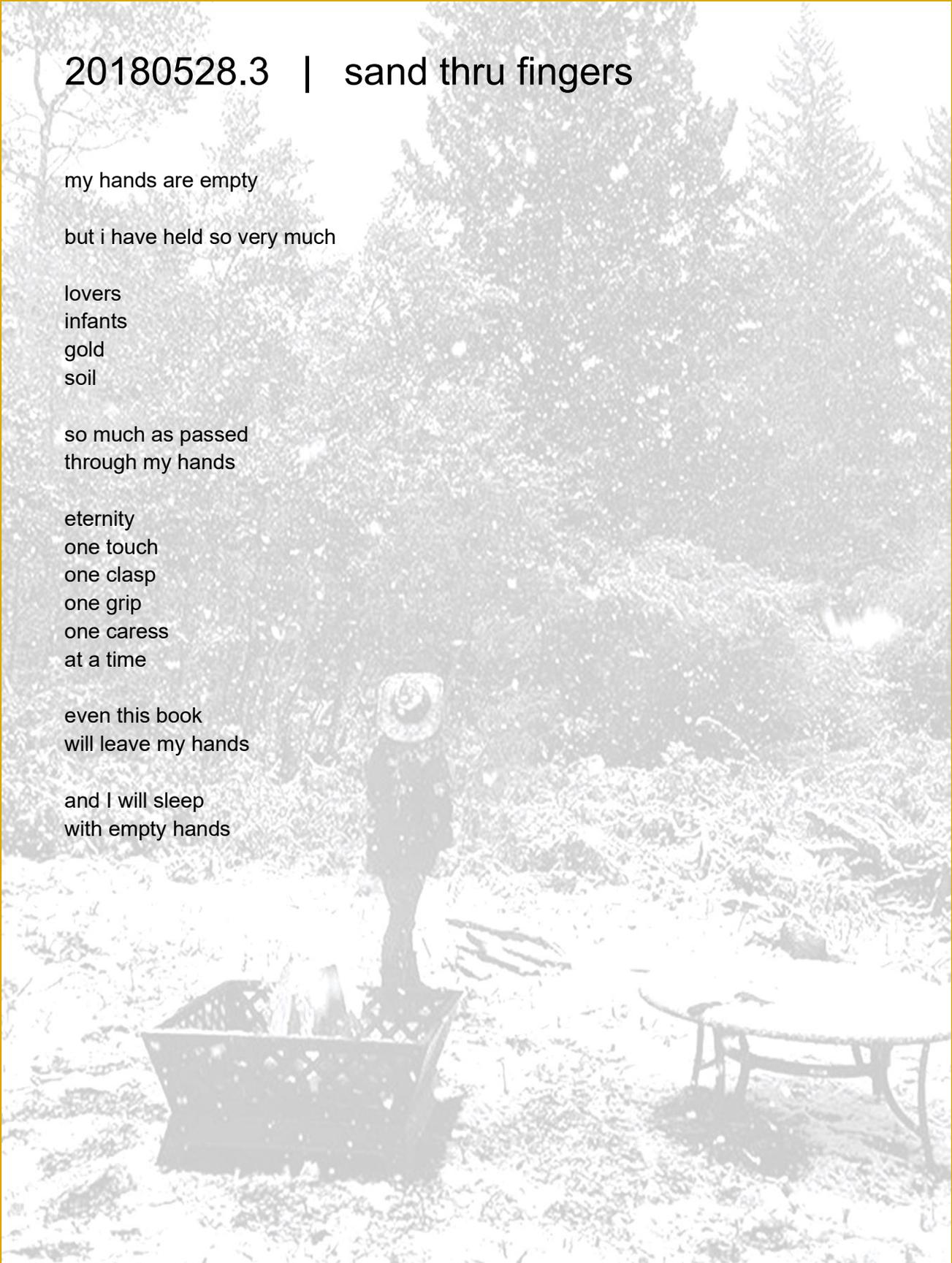
one grip

one caress

at a time

even this book
will leave my hands

and I will sleep
with empty hands

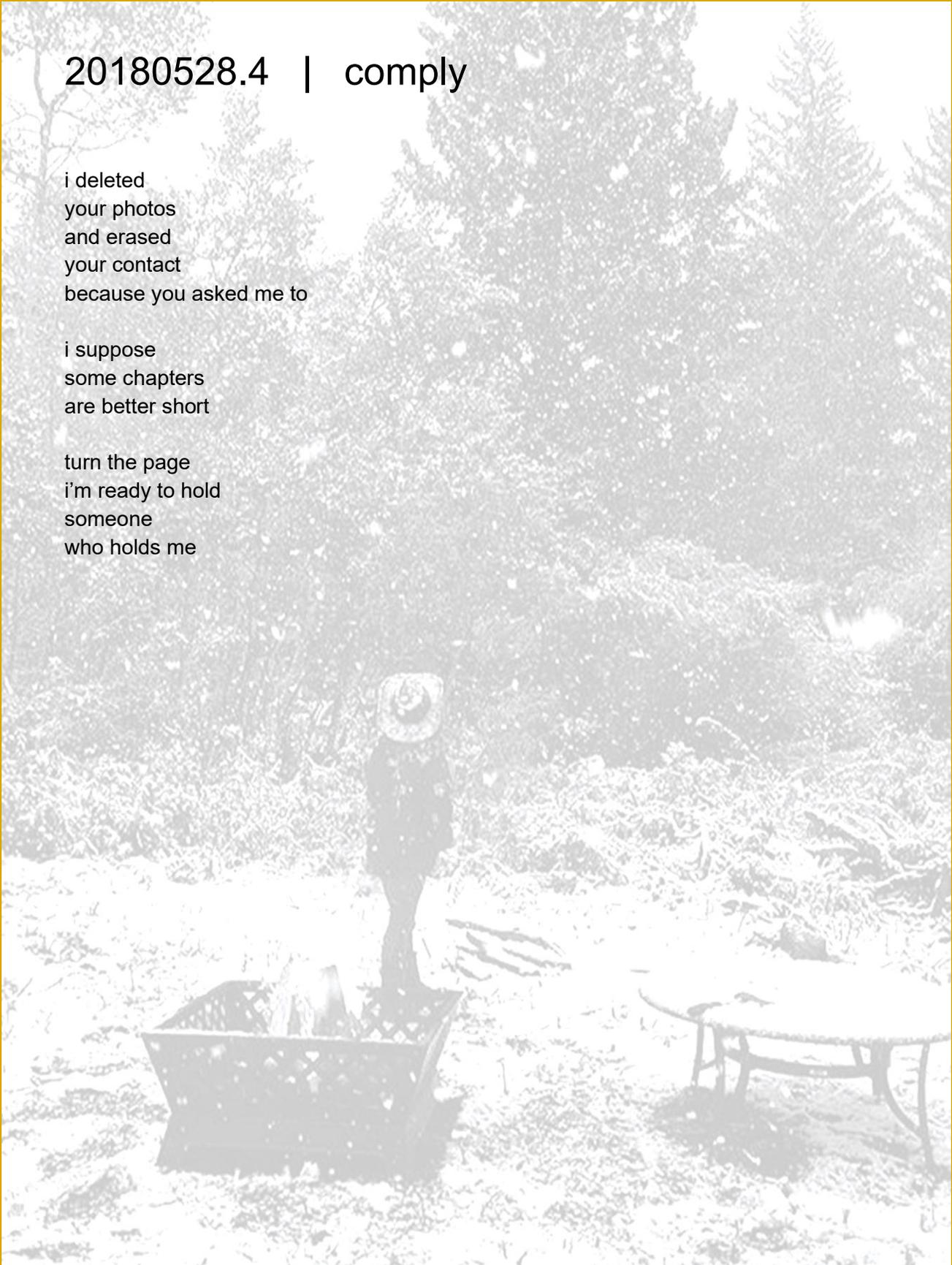


20180528.4 | comply

i deleted
your photos
and erased
your contact
because you asked me to

i suppose
some chapters
are better short

turn the page
i'm ready to hold
someone
who holds me



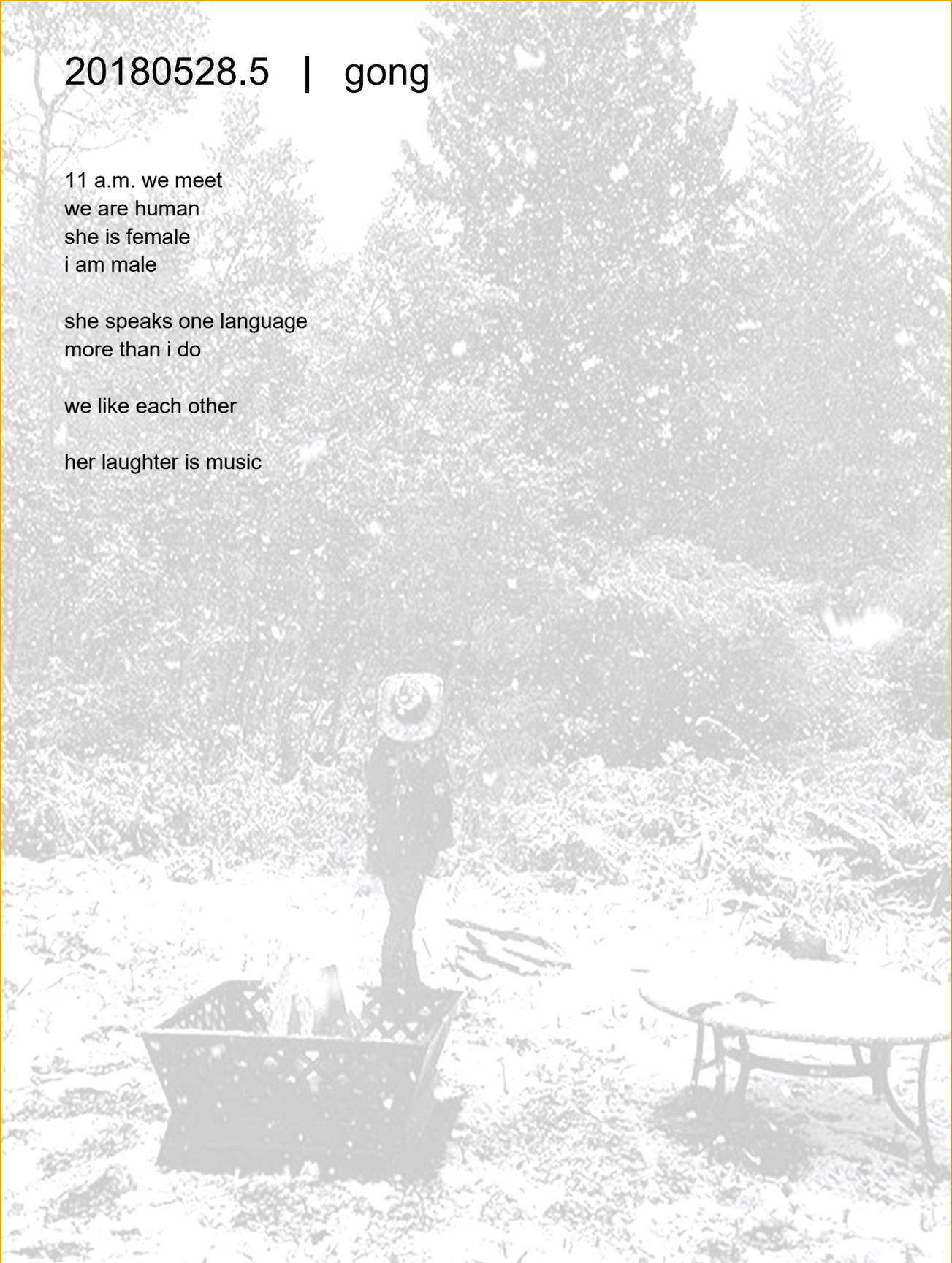
20180528.5 | gong

11 a.m. we meet
we are human
she is female
i am male

she speaks one language
more than i do

we like each other

her laughter is music



20180616.1 | pyramids

may 27, 2018

june 15, 2018

dates i

would like

to carry

in my soul

for life

death

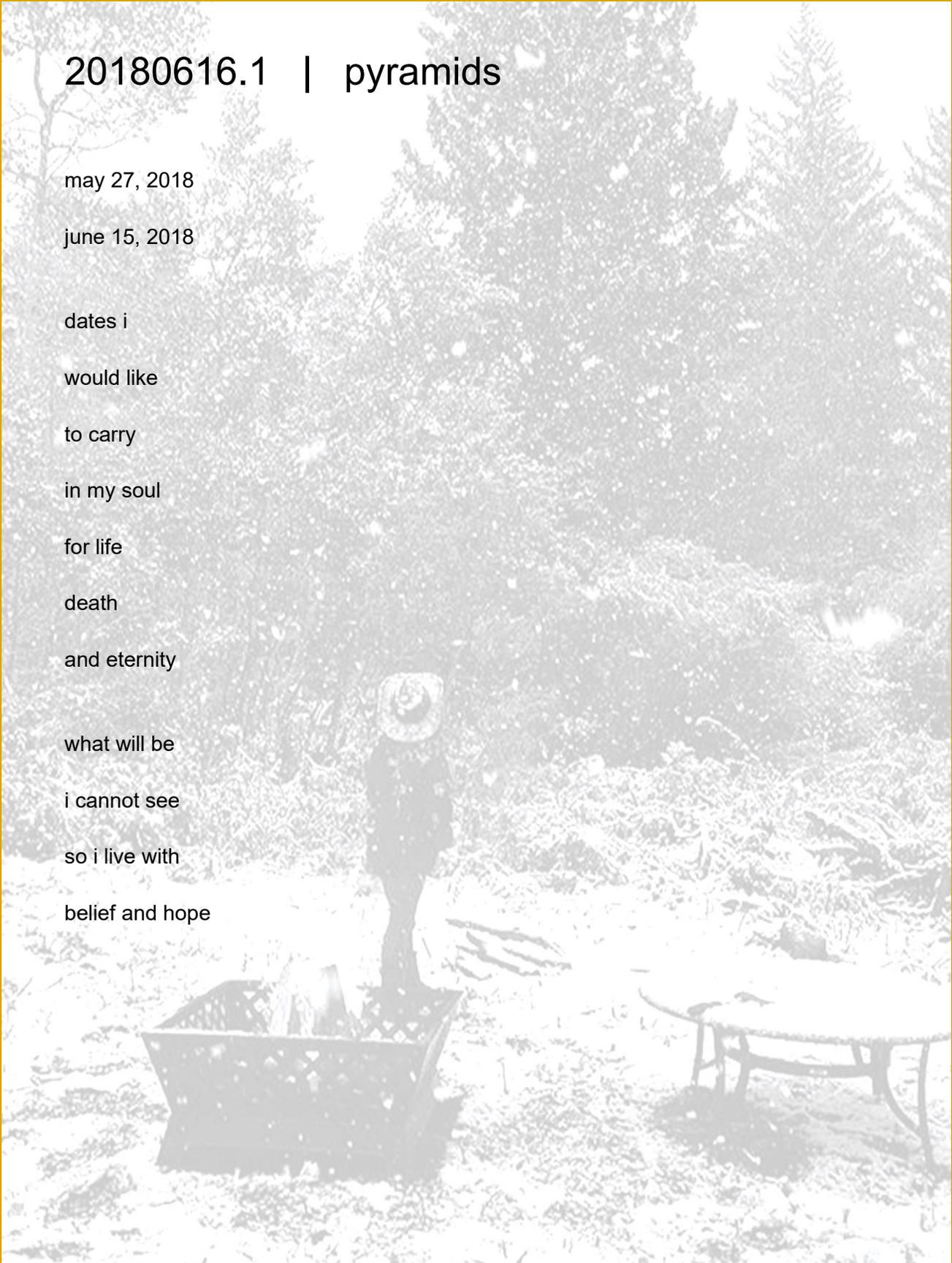
and eternity

what will be

i cannot see

so i live with

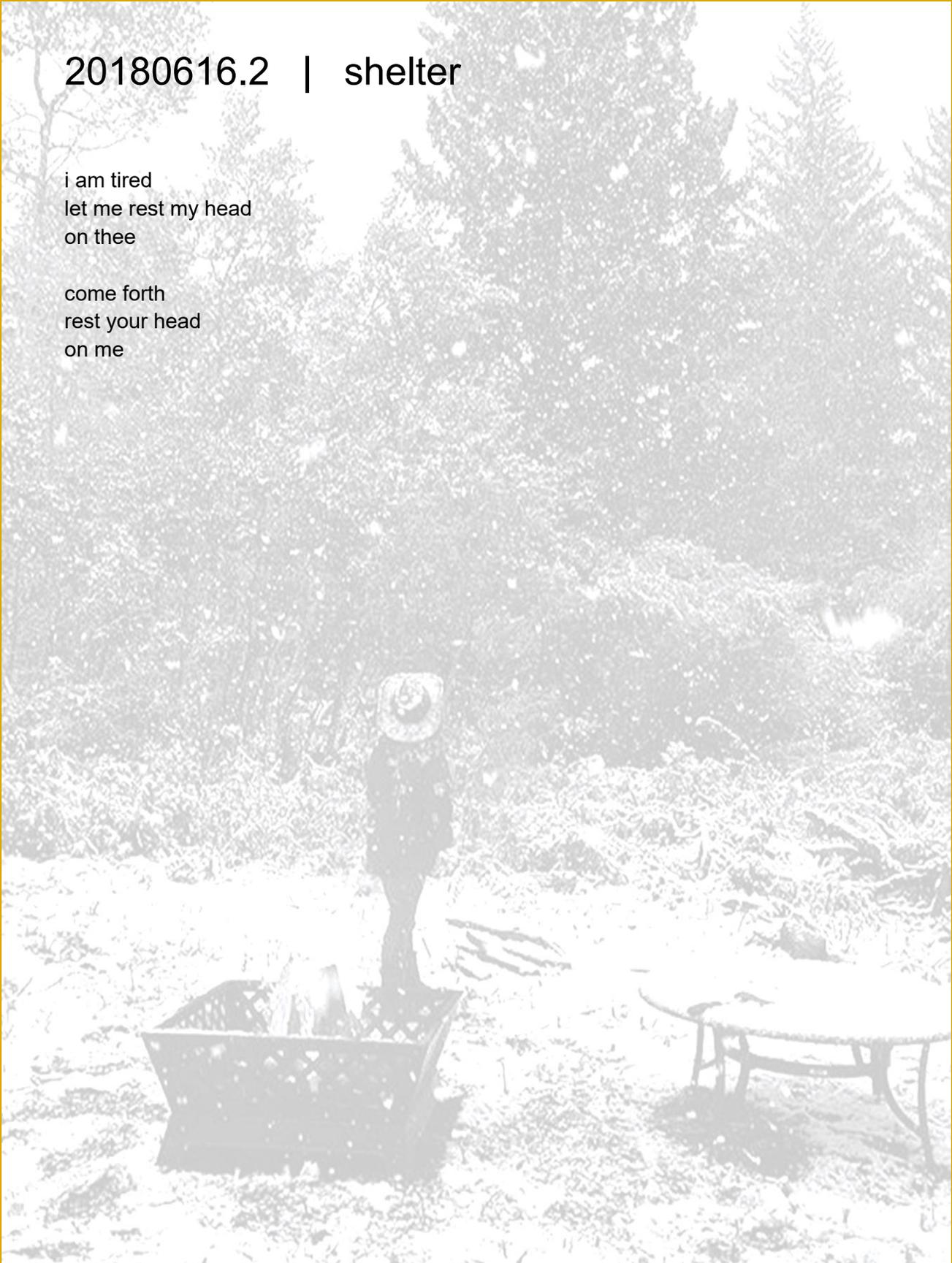
belief and hope



20180616.2 | shelter

i am tired
let me rest my head
on thee

come forth
rest your head
on me



20180618.1 | purpose

time

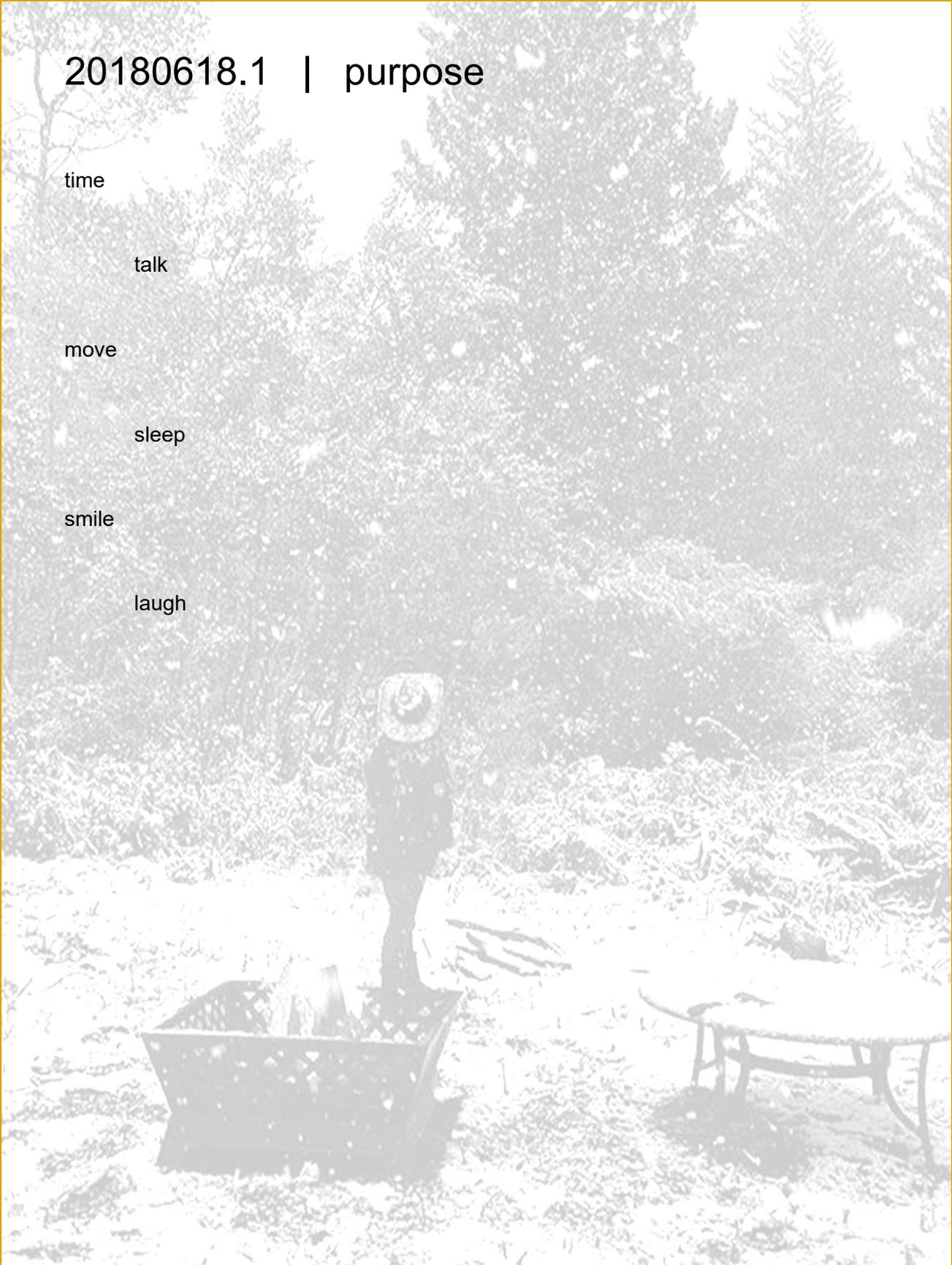
talk

move

sleep

smile

laugh



20180702.1 | orbit

she is more like me
than anyone i've ever met

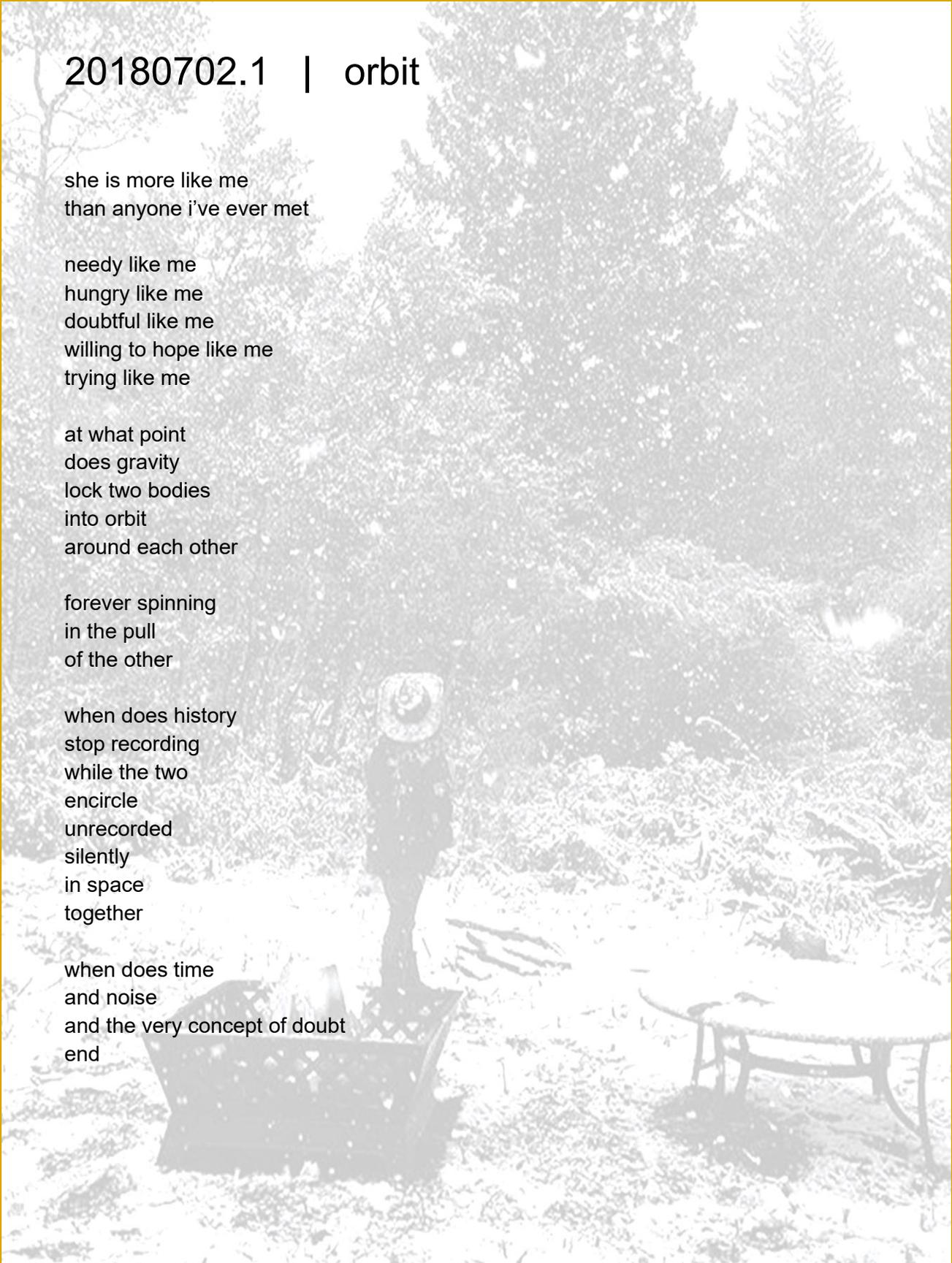
needy like me
hungry like me
doubtful like me
willing to hope like me
trying like me

at what point
does gravity
lock two bodies
into orbit
around each other

forever spinning
in the pull
of the other

when does history
stop recording
while the two
encircle
unrecorded
silently
in space
together

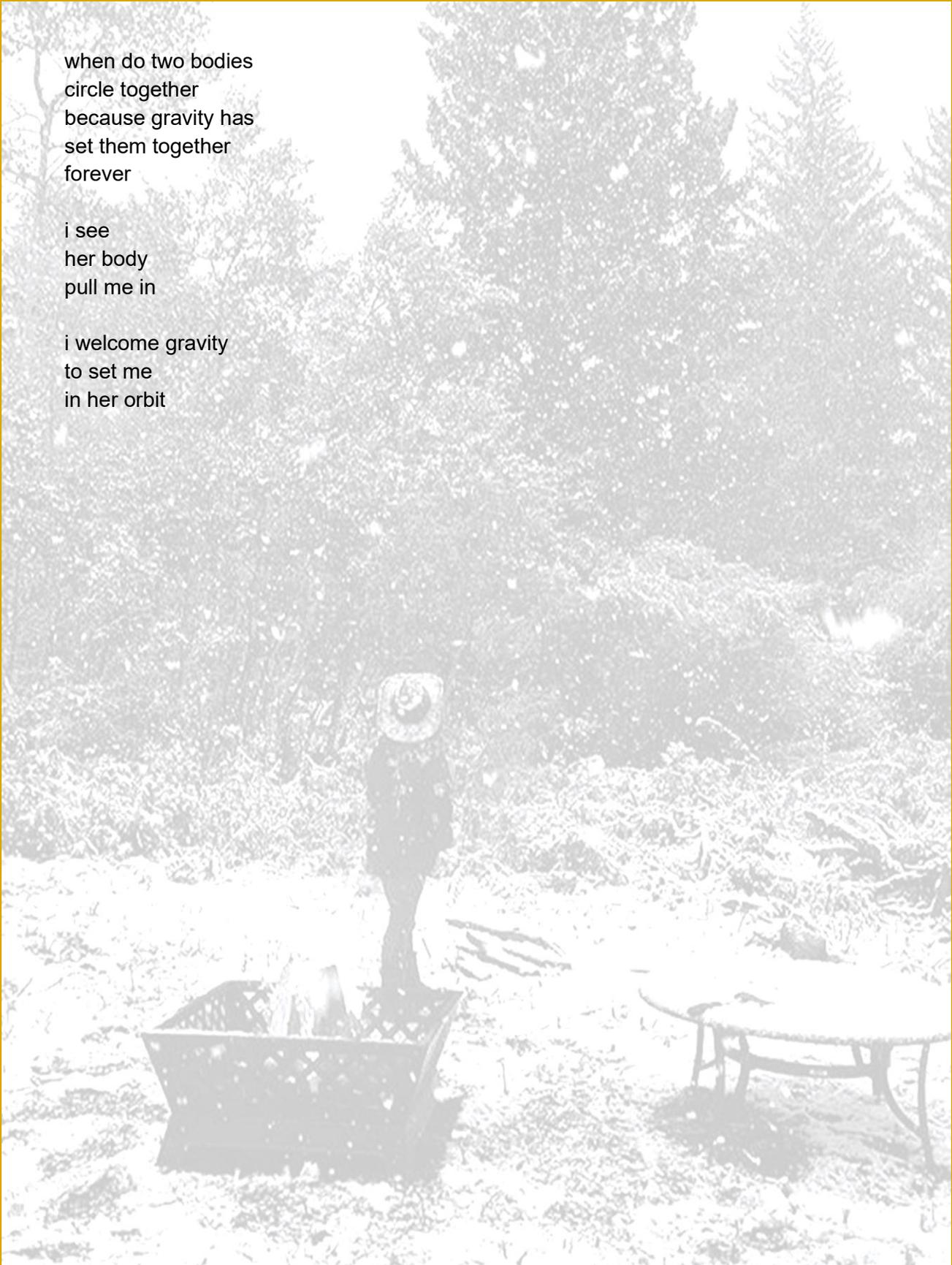
when does time
and noise
and the very concept of doubt
end



when do two bodies
circle together
because gravity has
set them together
forever

i see
her body
pull me in

i welcome gravity
to set me
in her orbit



20180702.2 | in what dimension

music keeps telling me
what i'm feeling

money keeps me on a schedule

the spirit
occasionally
sets me on fire

orgasms make my flesh sweat

sleep drowns out my voice

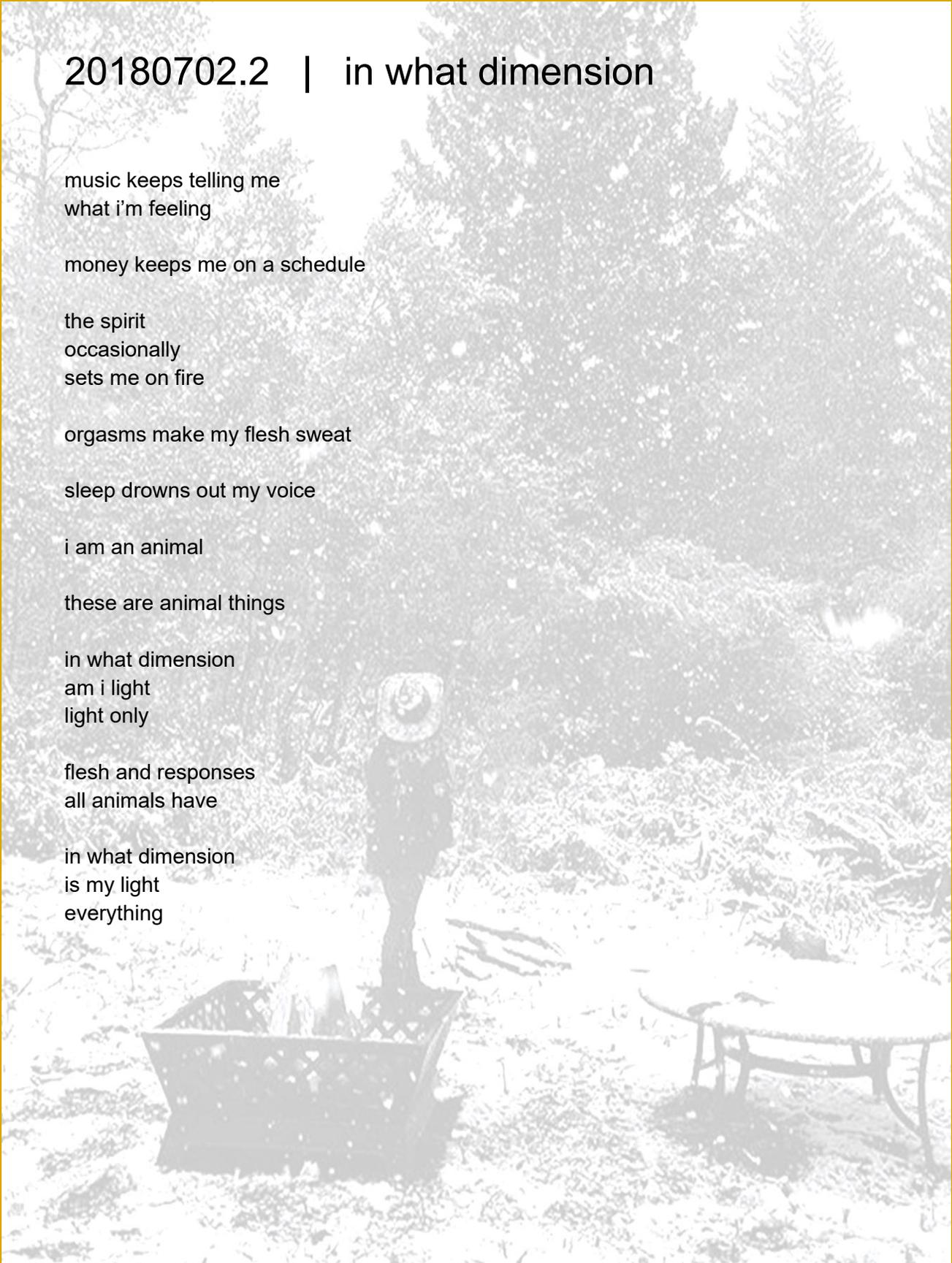
i am an animal

these are animal things

in what dimension
am i light
light only

flesh and responses
all animals have

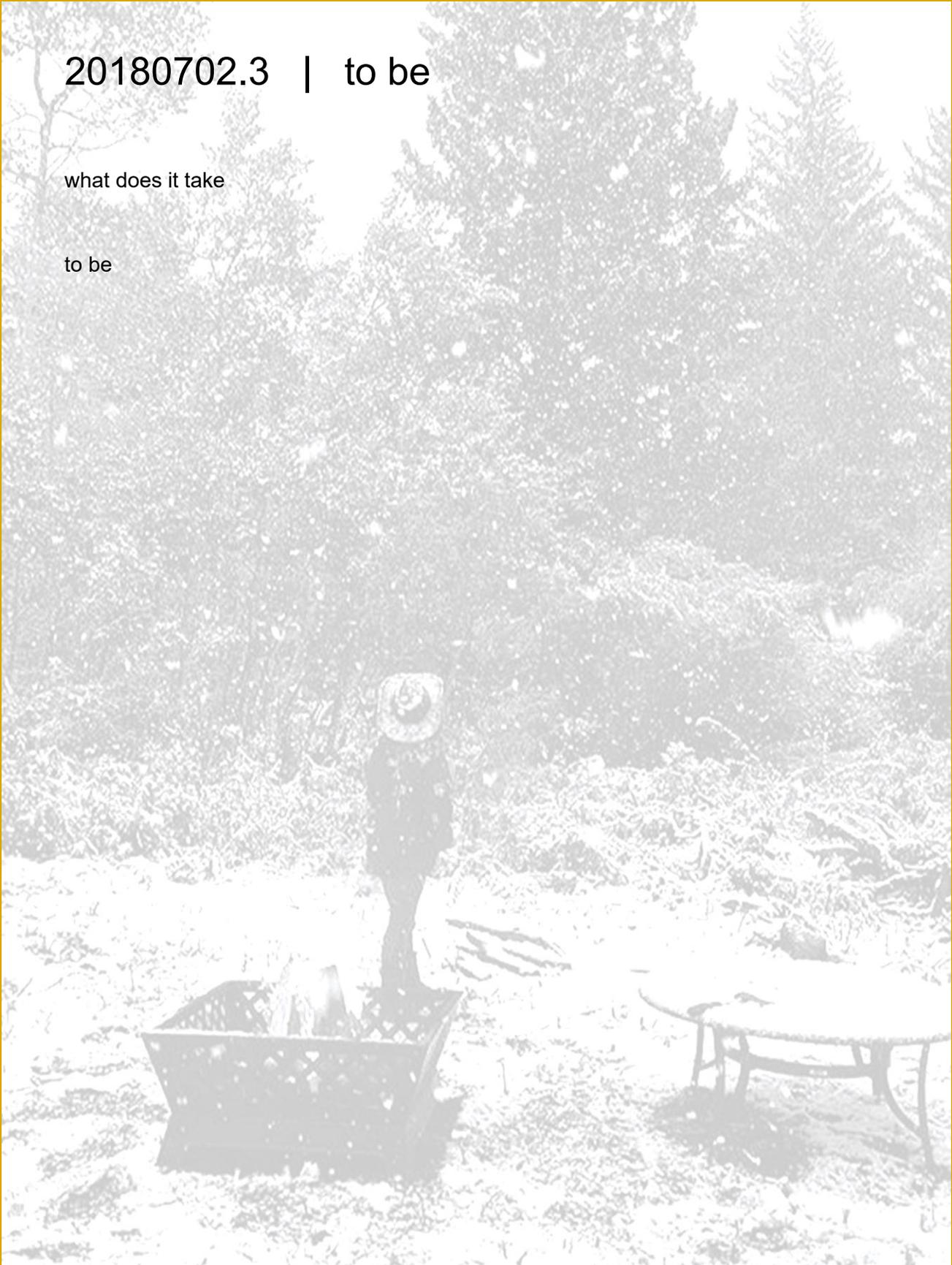
in what dimension
is my light
everything



20180702.3 | to be

what does it take

to be



20180702.4 | color

i am pink
she is yellow

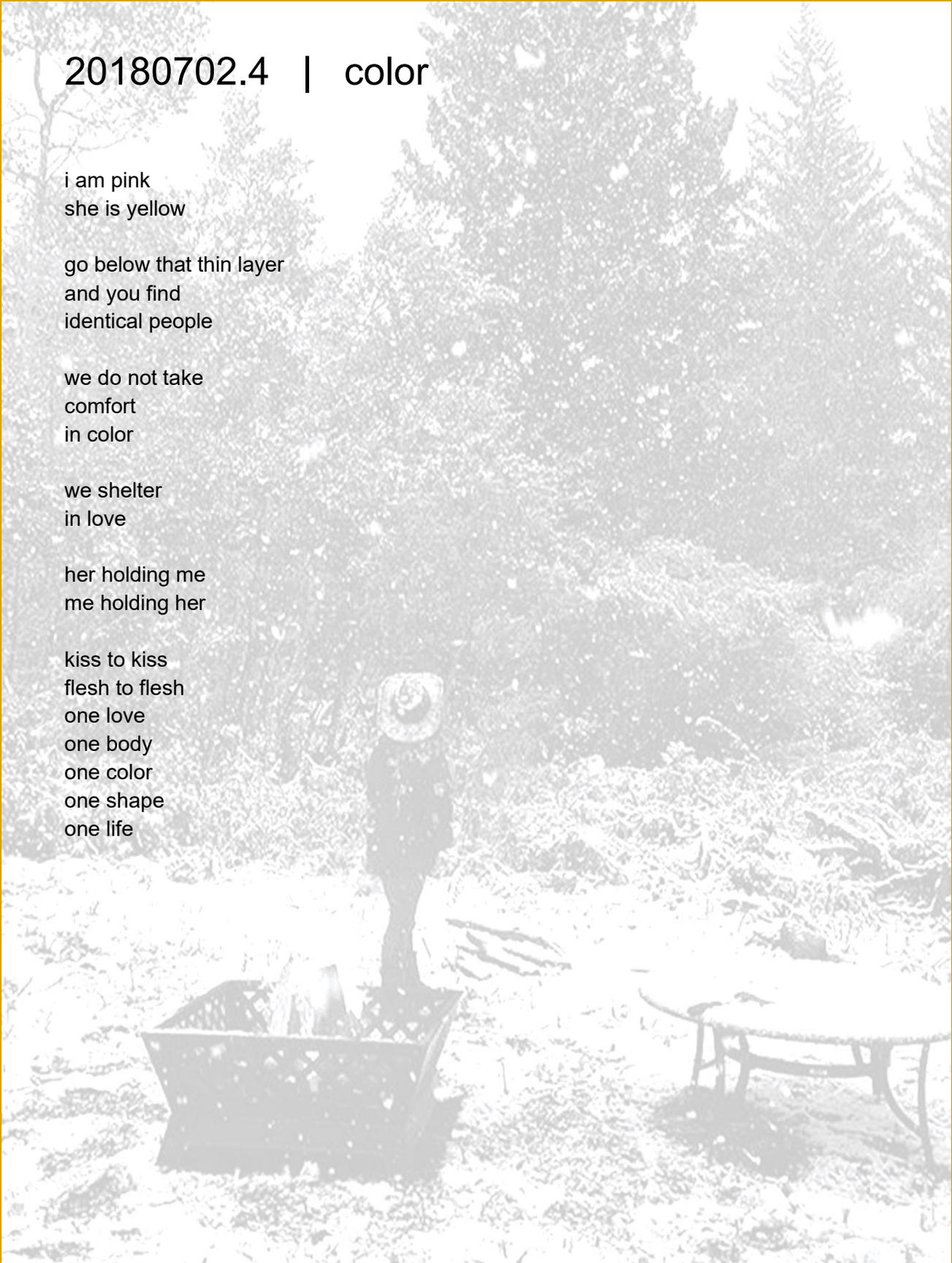
go below that thin layer
and you find
identical people

we do not take
comfort
in color

we shelter
in love

her holding me
me holding her

kiss to kiss
flesh to flesh
one love
one body
one color
one shape
one life



20180703.1 | the world melts

not sure why this works
but it works

she says I look clean
i say her laugh is like
comforting ice
on a burning heart

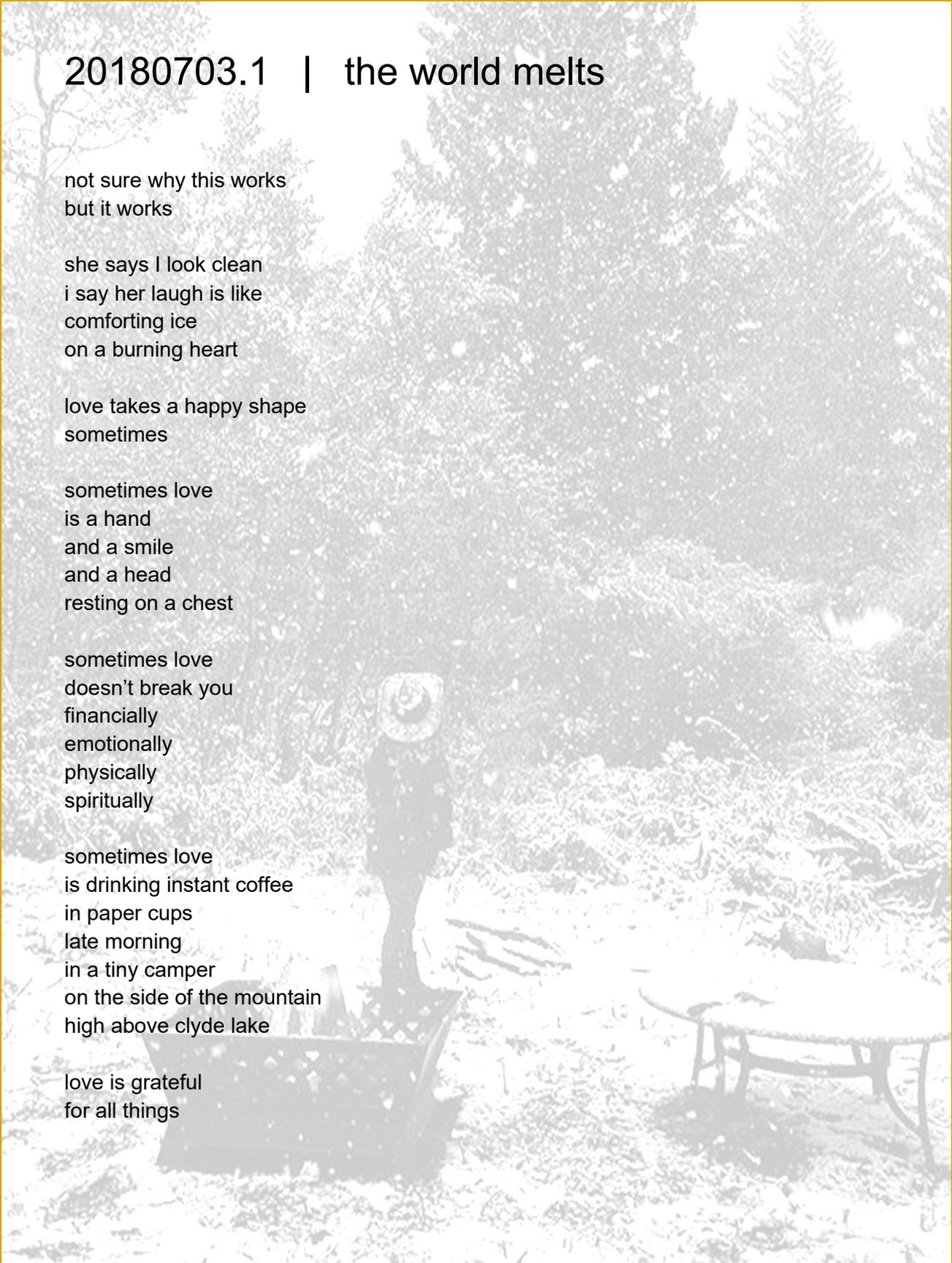
love takes a happy shape
sometimes

sometimes love
is a hand
and a smile
and a head
resting on a chest

sometimes love
doesn't break you
financially
emotionally
physically
spiritually

sometimes love
is drinking instant coffee
in paper cups
late morning
in a tiny camper
on the side of the mountain
high above clyde lake

love is grateful
for all things



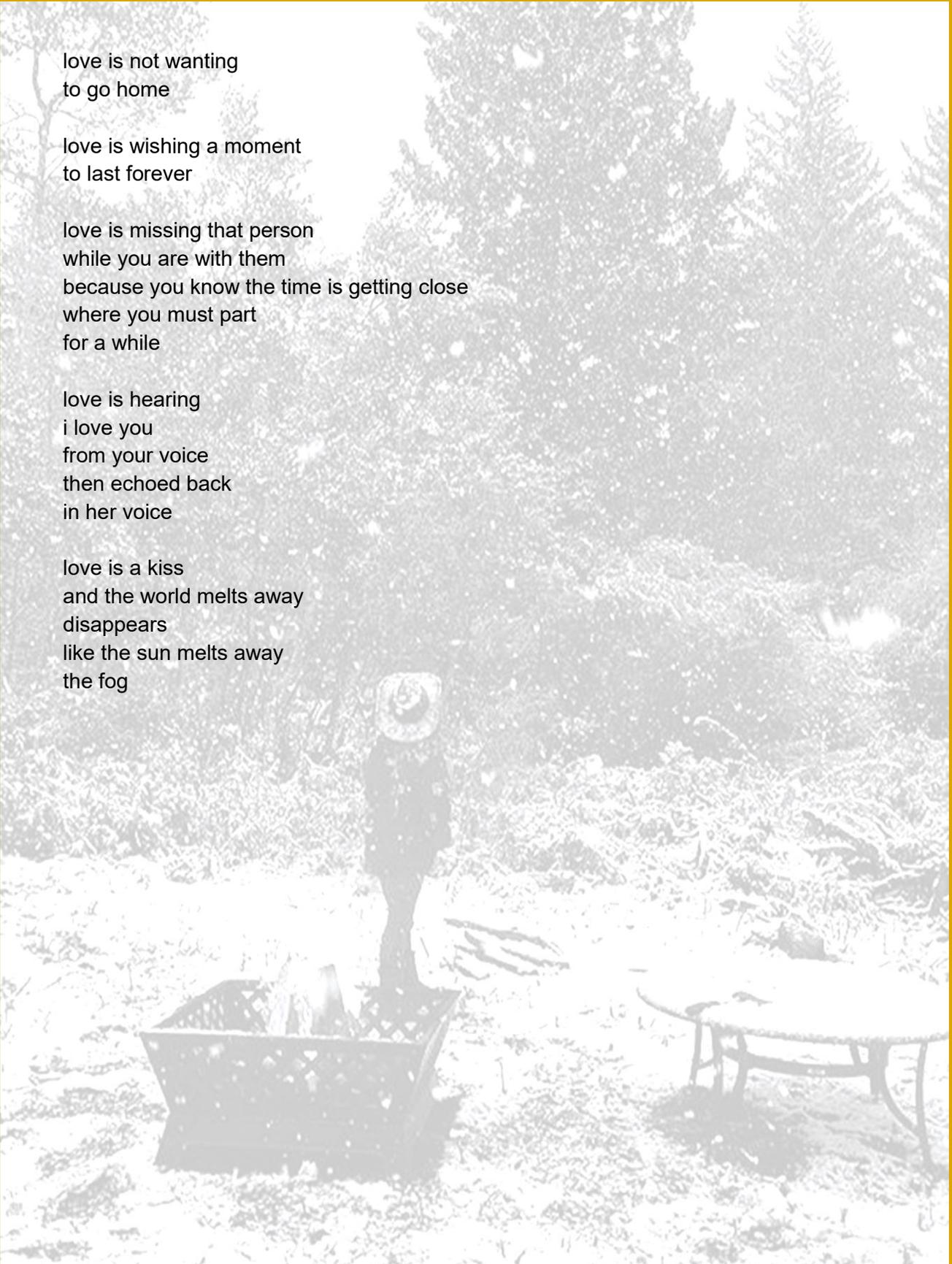
love is not wanting
to go home

love is wishing a moment
to last forever

love is missing that person
while you are with them
because you know the time is getting close
where you must part
for a while

love is hearing
i love you
from your voice
then echoed back
in her voice

love is a kiss
and the world melts away
disappears
like the sun melts away
the fog



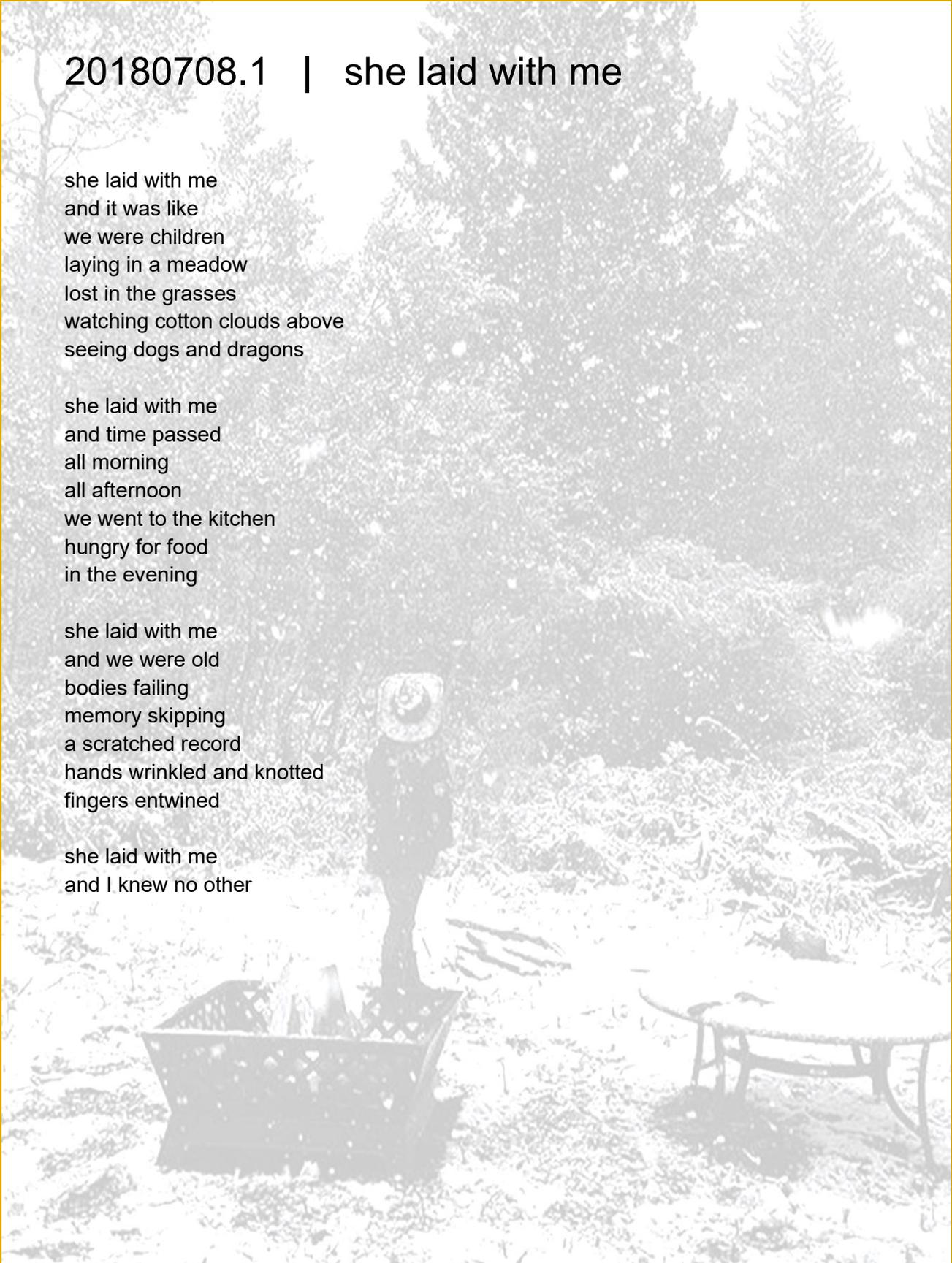
20180708.1 | she laid with me

she laid with me
and it was like
we were children
laying in a meadow
lost in the grasses
watching cotton clouds above
seeing dogs and dragons

she laid with me
and time passed
all morning
all afternoon
we went to the kitchen
hungry for food
in the evening

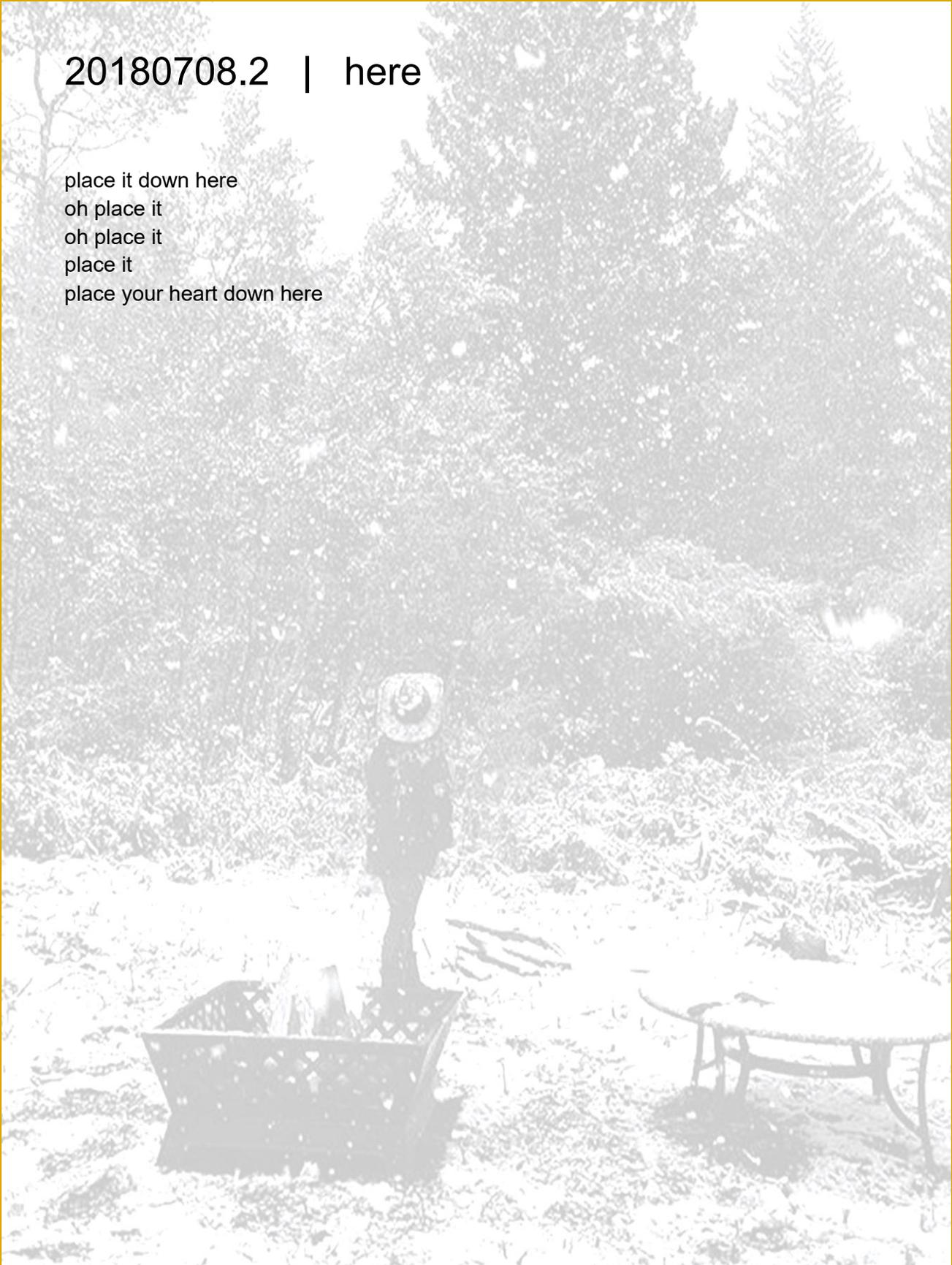
she laid with me
and we were old
bodies failing
memory skipping
a scratched record
hands wrinkled and knotted
fingers entwined

she laid with me
and I knew no other



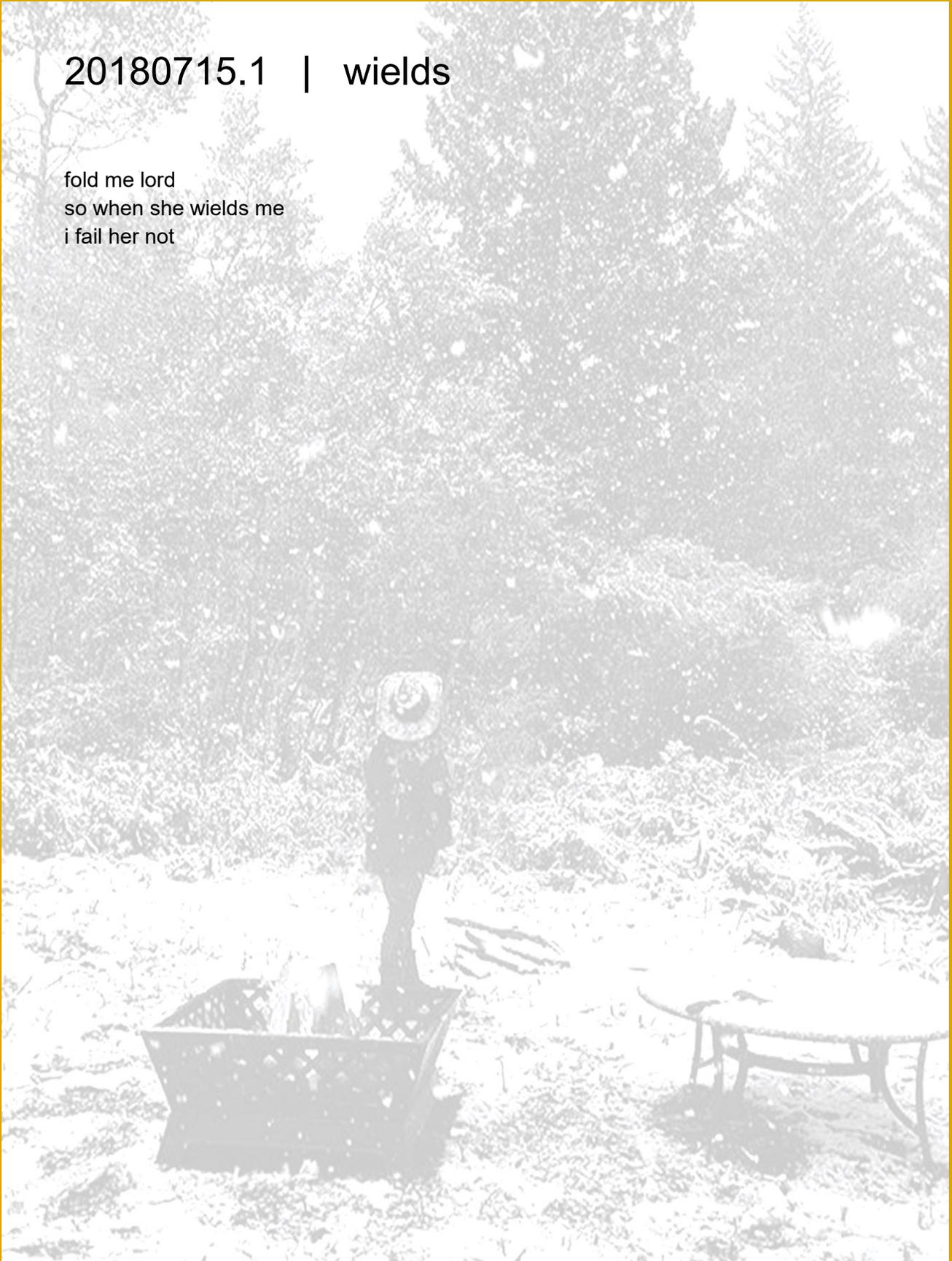
20180708.2 | here

place it down here
oh place it
oh place it
place it
place your heart down here



20180715.1 | wields

fold me lord
so when she wields me
i fail her not



20180715.2 | all things in one

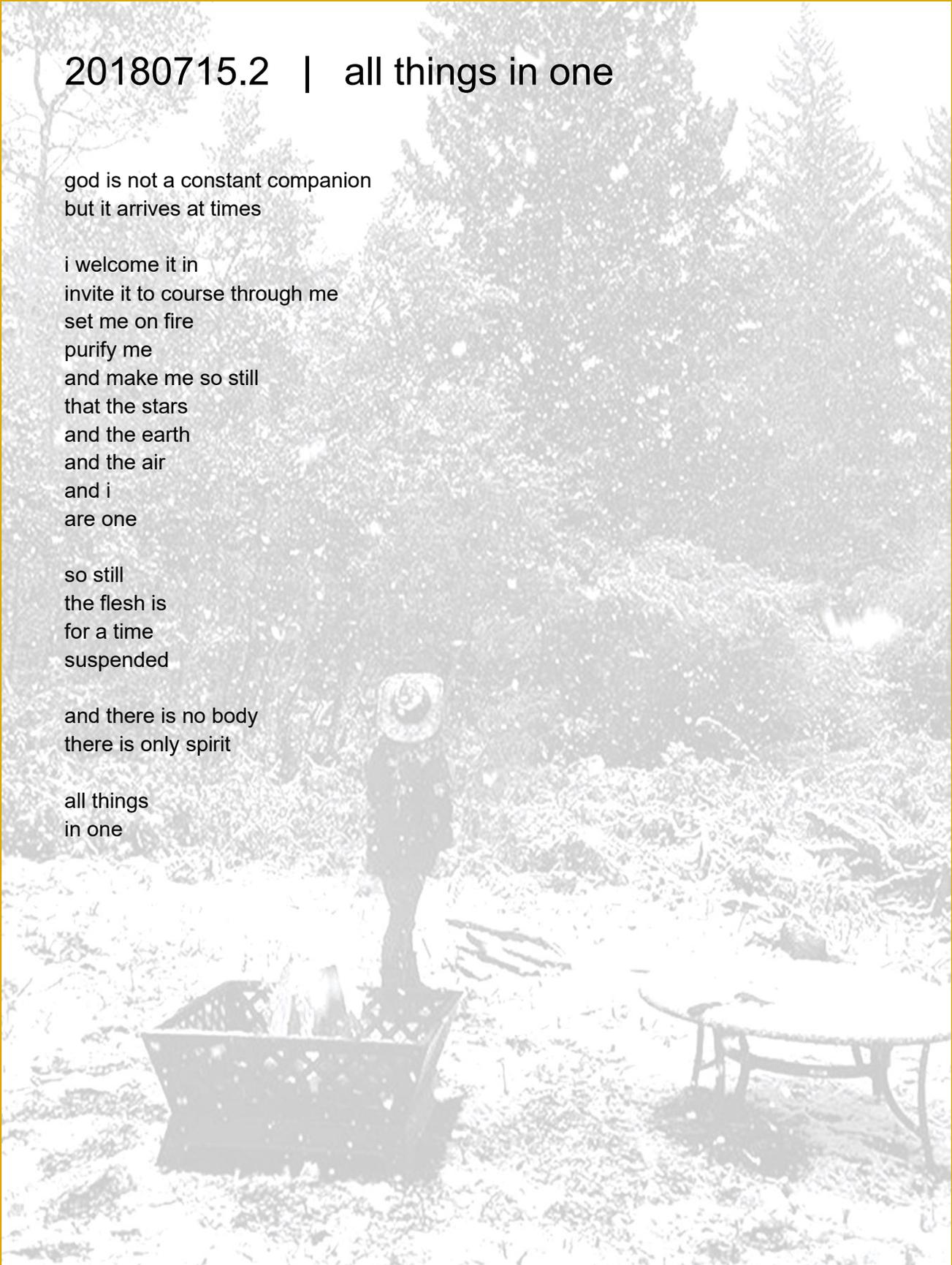
god is not a constant companion
but it arrives at times

i welcome it in
invite it to course through me
set me on fire
purify me
and make me so still
that the stars
and the earth
and the air
and i
are one

so still
the flesh is
for a time
suspended

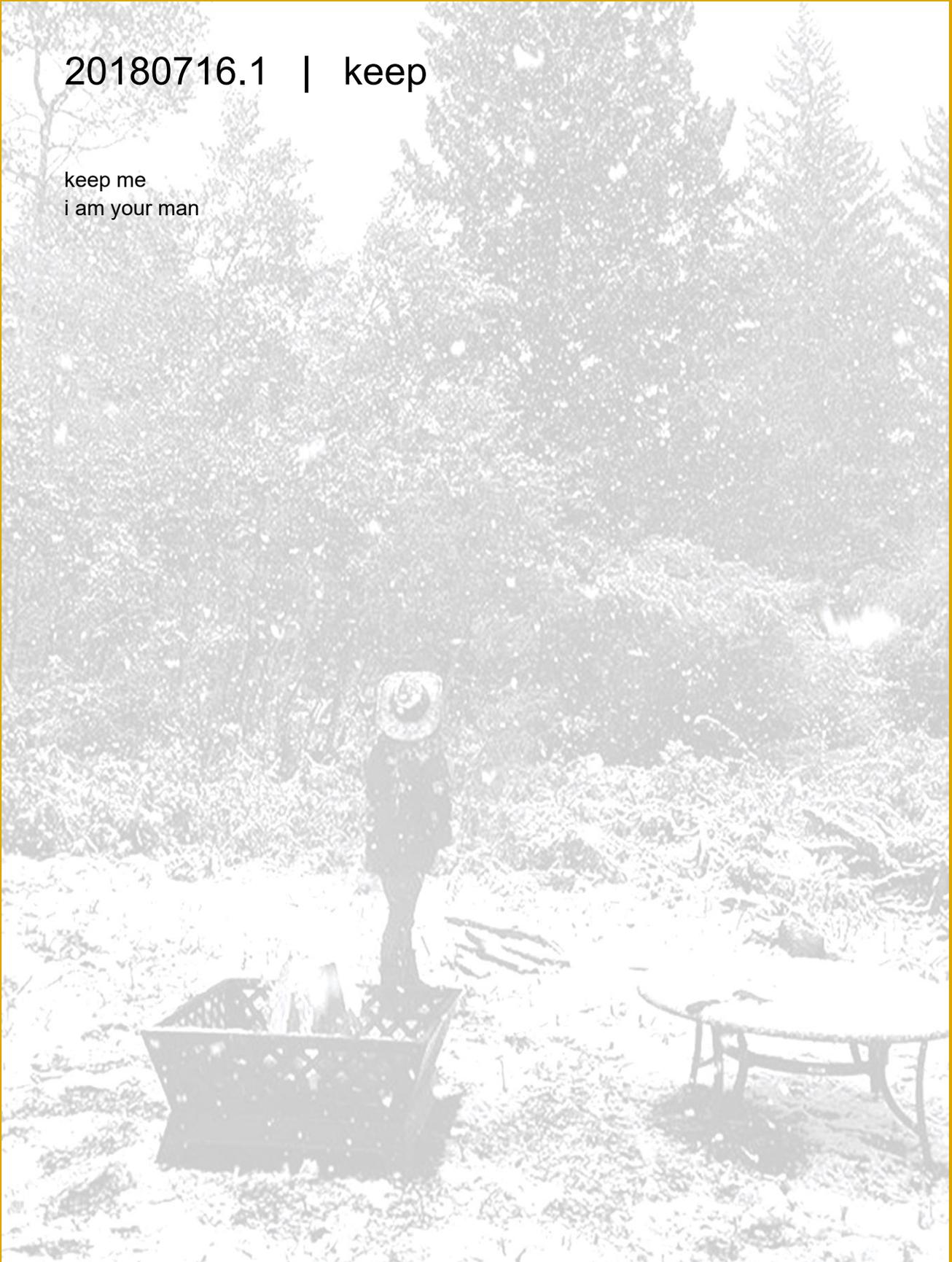
and there is no body
there is only spirit

all things
in one



20180716.1 | keep

keep me
i am your man



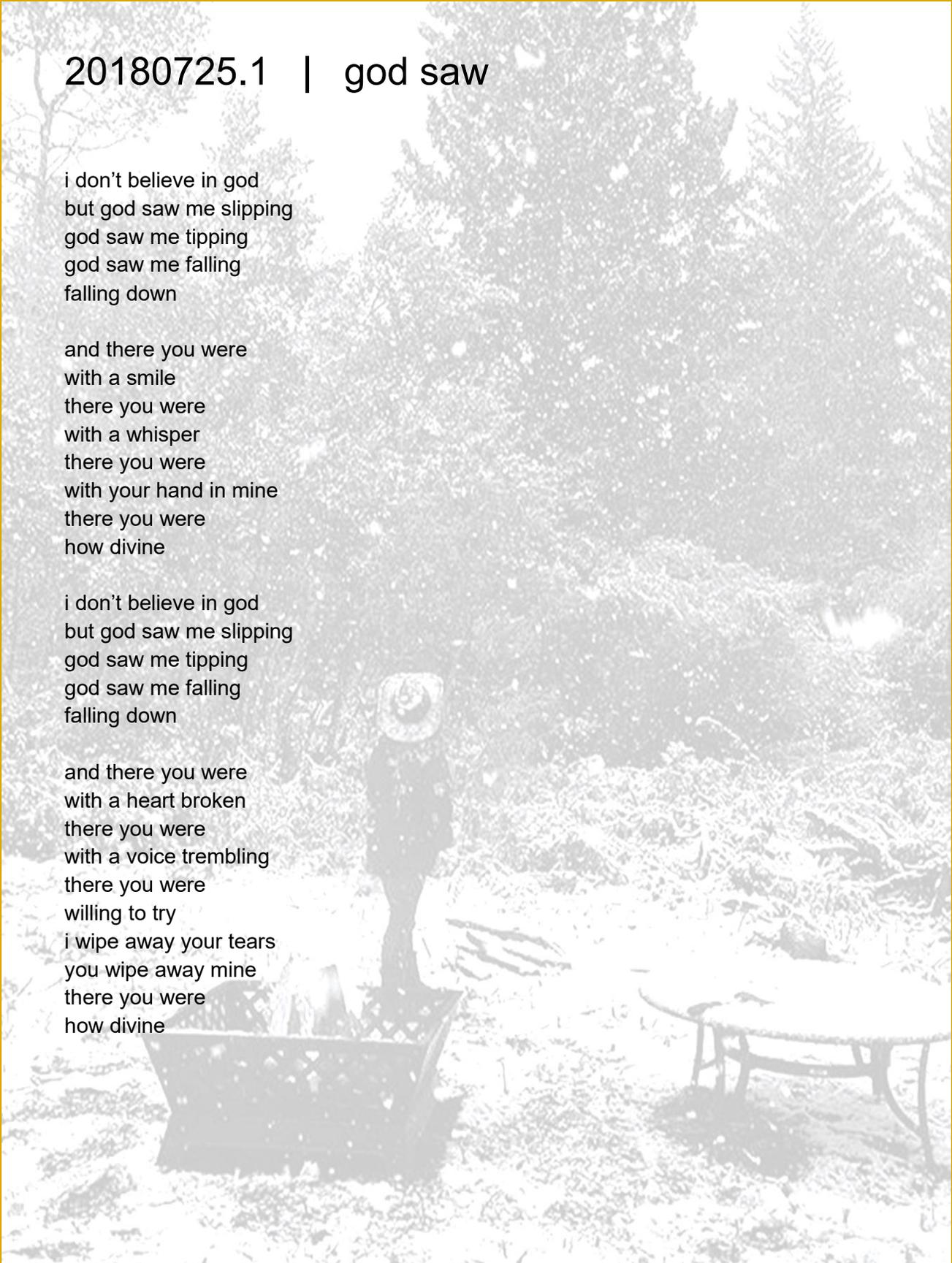
20180725.1 | god saw

i don't believe in god
but god saw me slipping
god saw me tipping
god saw me falling
falling down

and there you were
with a smile
there you were
with a whisper
there you were
with your hand in mine
there you were
how divine

i don't believe in god
but god saw me slipping
god saw me tipping
god saw me falling
falling down

and there you were
with a heart broken
there you were
with a voice trembling
there you were
willing to try
i wipe away your tears
you wipe away mine
there you were
how divine

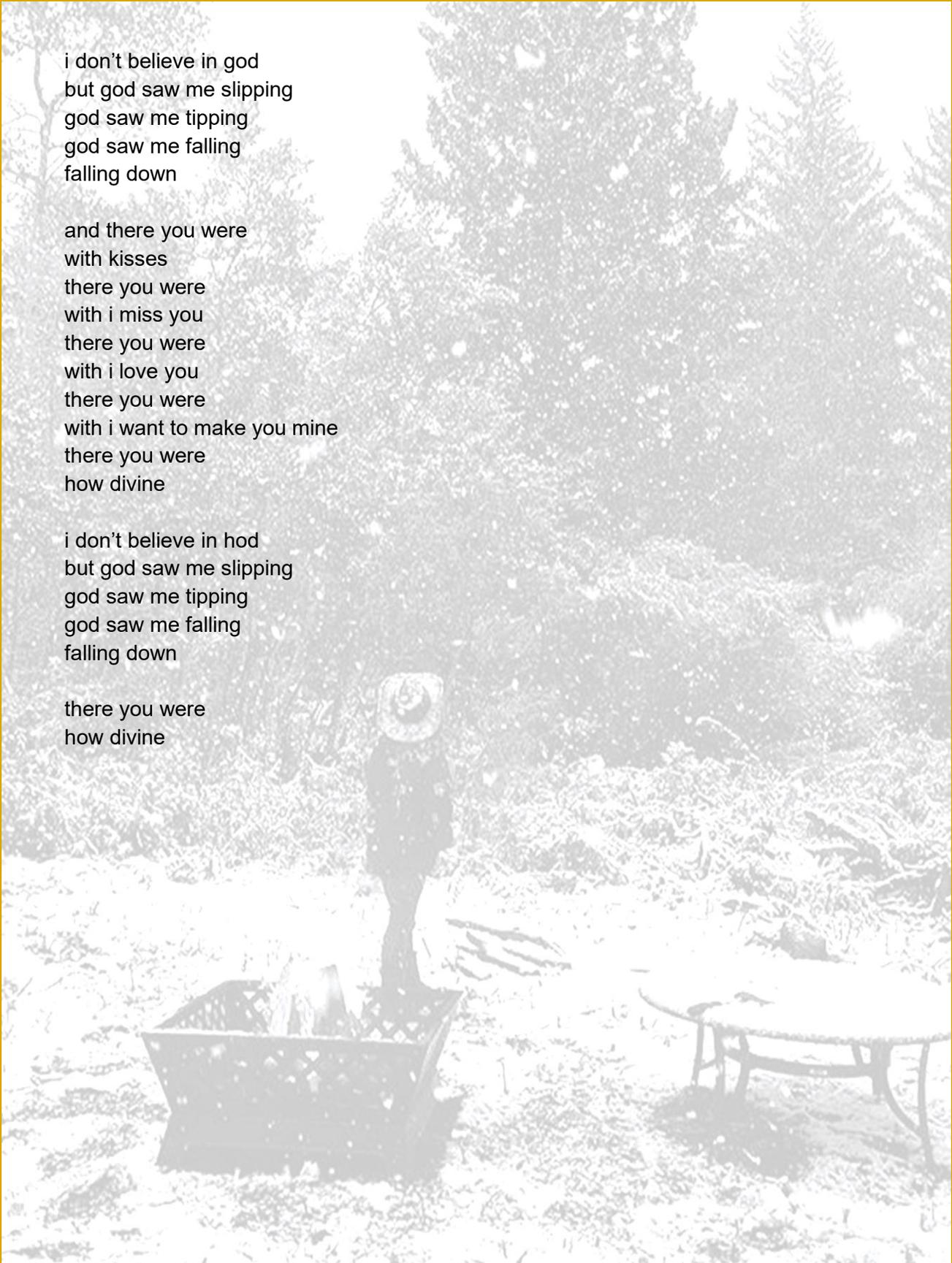


i don't believe in god
but god saw me slipping
god saw me tipping
god saw me falling
falling down

and there you were
with kisses
there you were
with i miss you
there you were
with i love you
there you were
with i want to make you mine
there you were
how divine

i don't believe in hod
but god saw me slipping
god saw me tipping
god saw me falling
falling down

there you were
how divine



20180912.1 | push or pull

if you push
hard enough
long enough

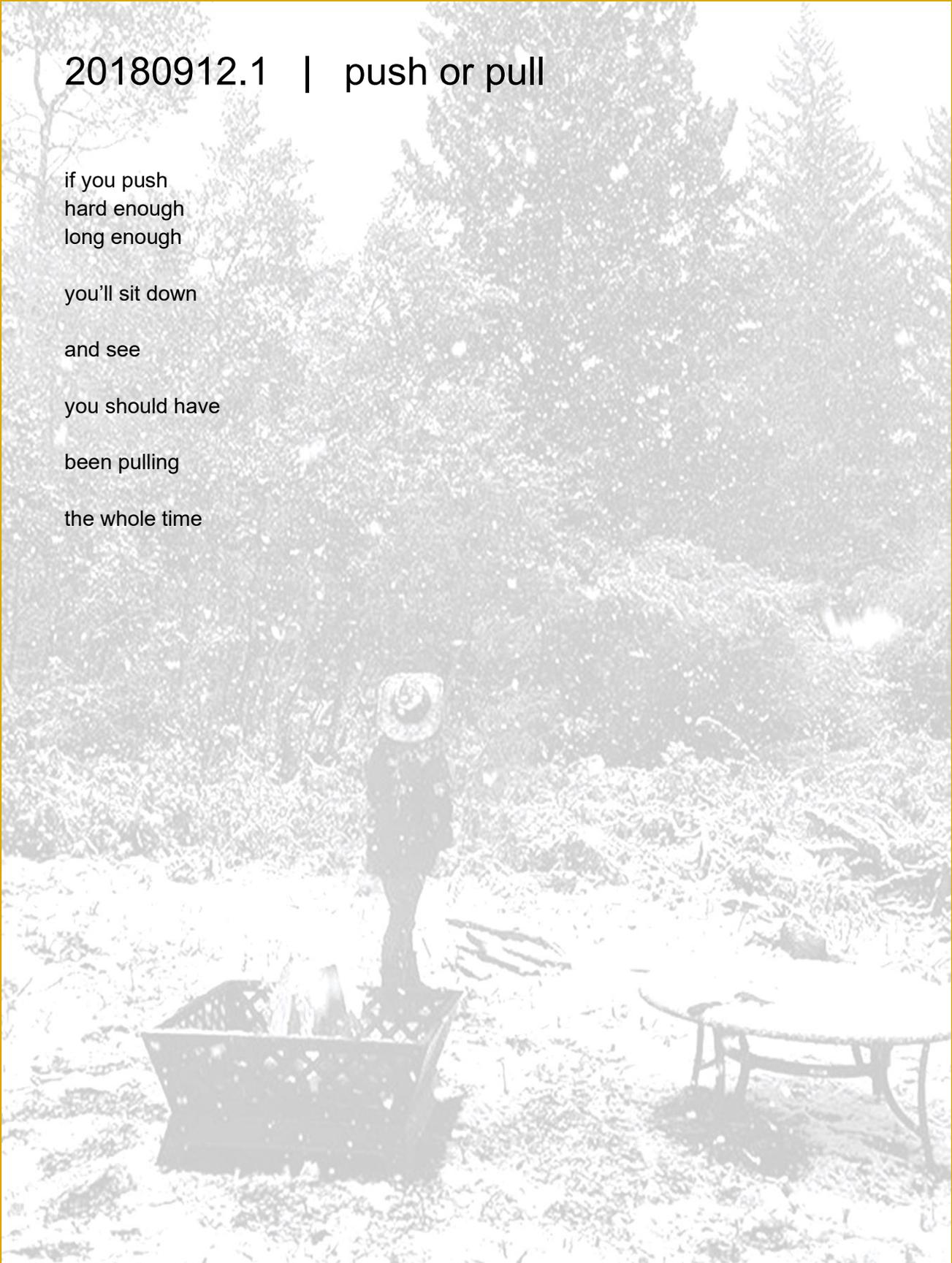
you'll sit down

and see

you should have

been pulling

the whole time

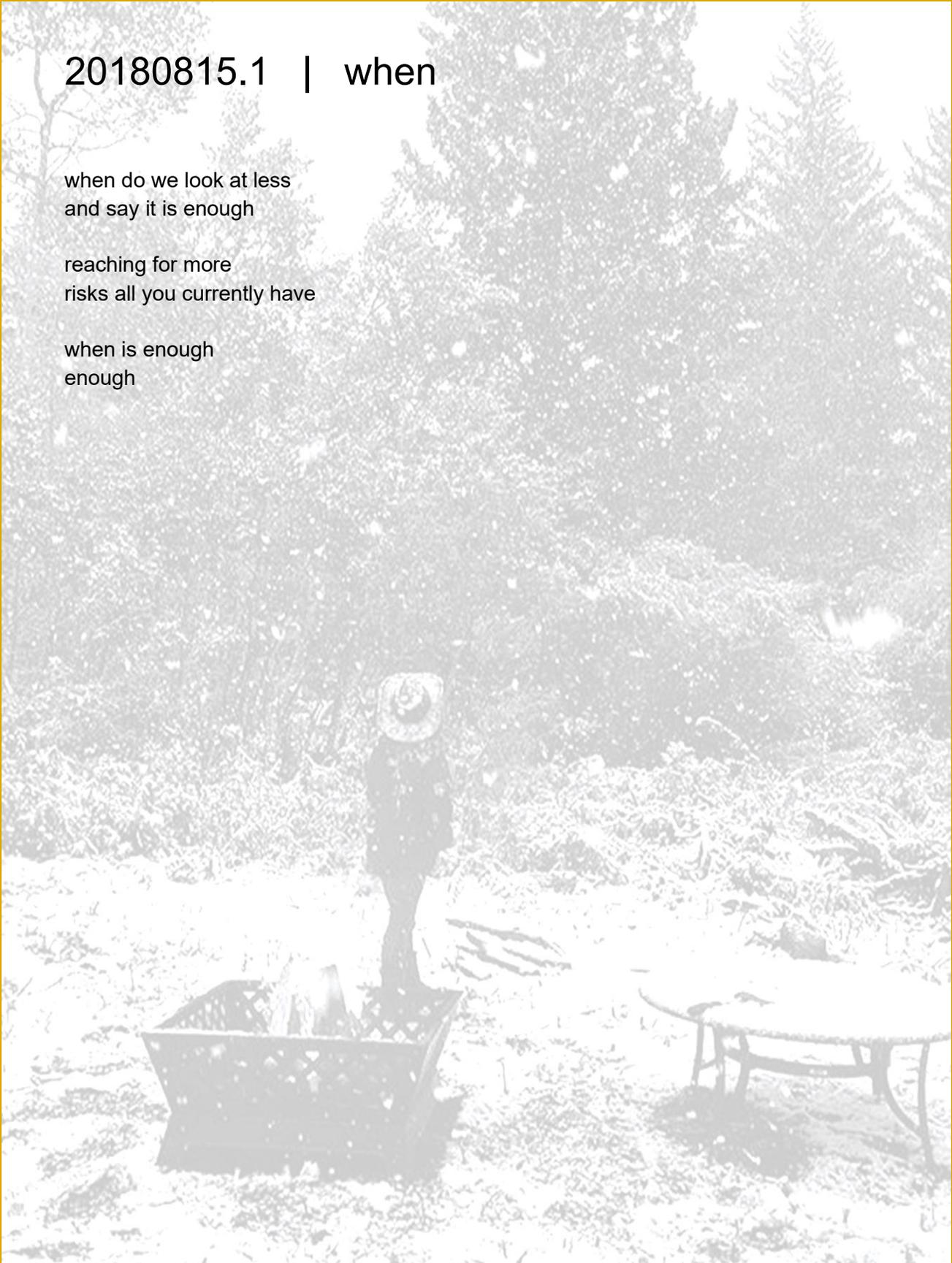


20180815.1 | when

when do we look at less
and say it is enough

reaching for more
risks all you currently have

when is enough
enough



20180926.1 | anchor

i wish the words would appear
on this page

i will simply look
and the right words appear

telling me
what my thoughts can't find

opening my eyes
to the truth of my life

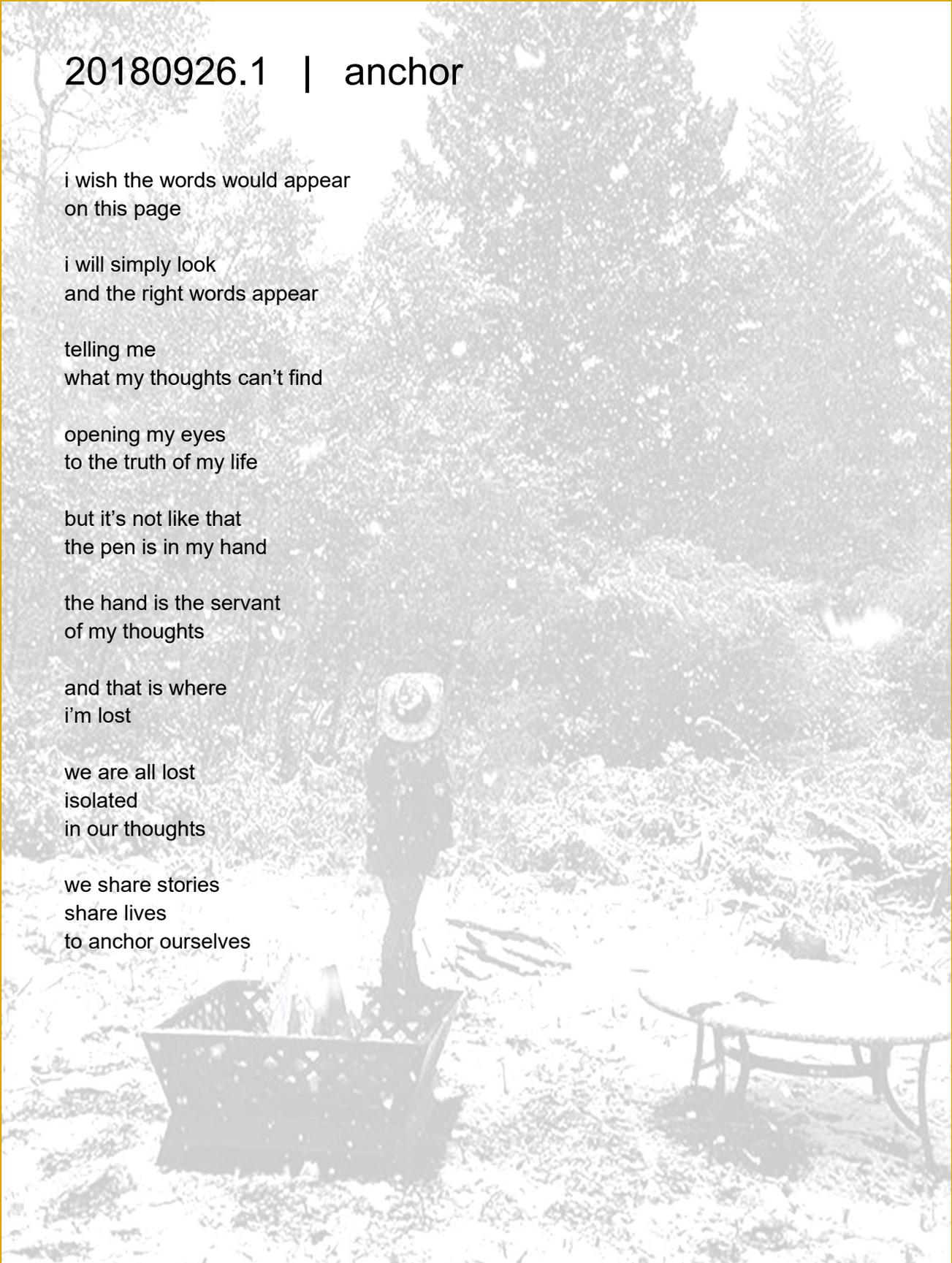
but it's not like that
the pen is in my hand

the hand is the servant
of my thoughts

and that is where
i'm lost

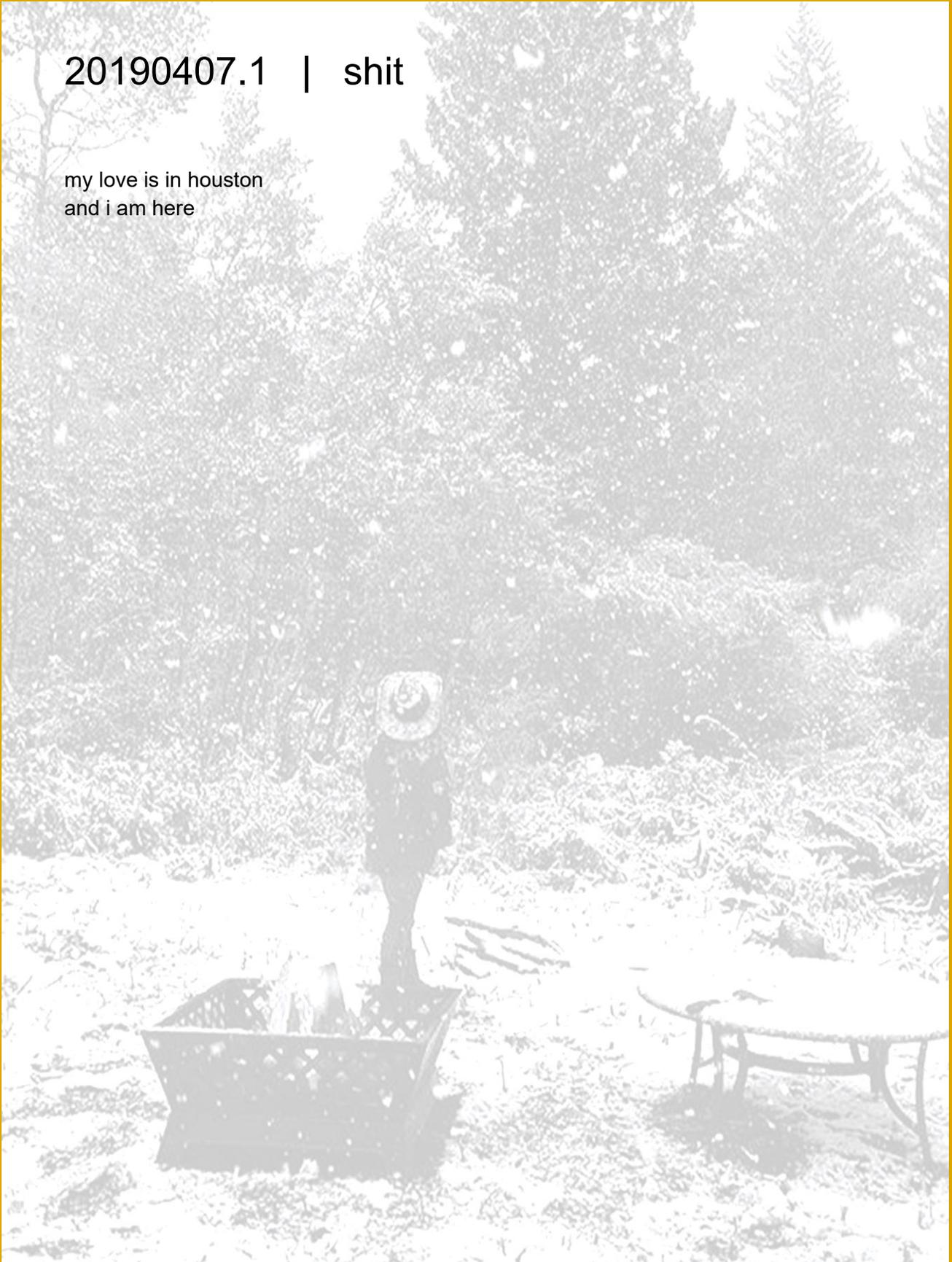
we are all lost
isolated
in our thoughts

we share stories
share lives
to anchor ourselves



20190407.1 | shit

my love is in houston
and i am here



20190411.1 | to share coffee

what i want
is to share coffee

and we share
so much more

days
weeks
and a life slips by

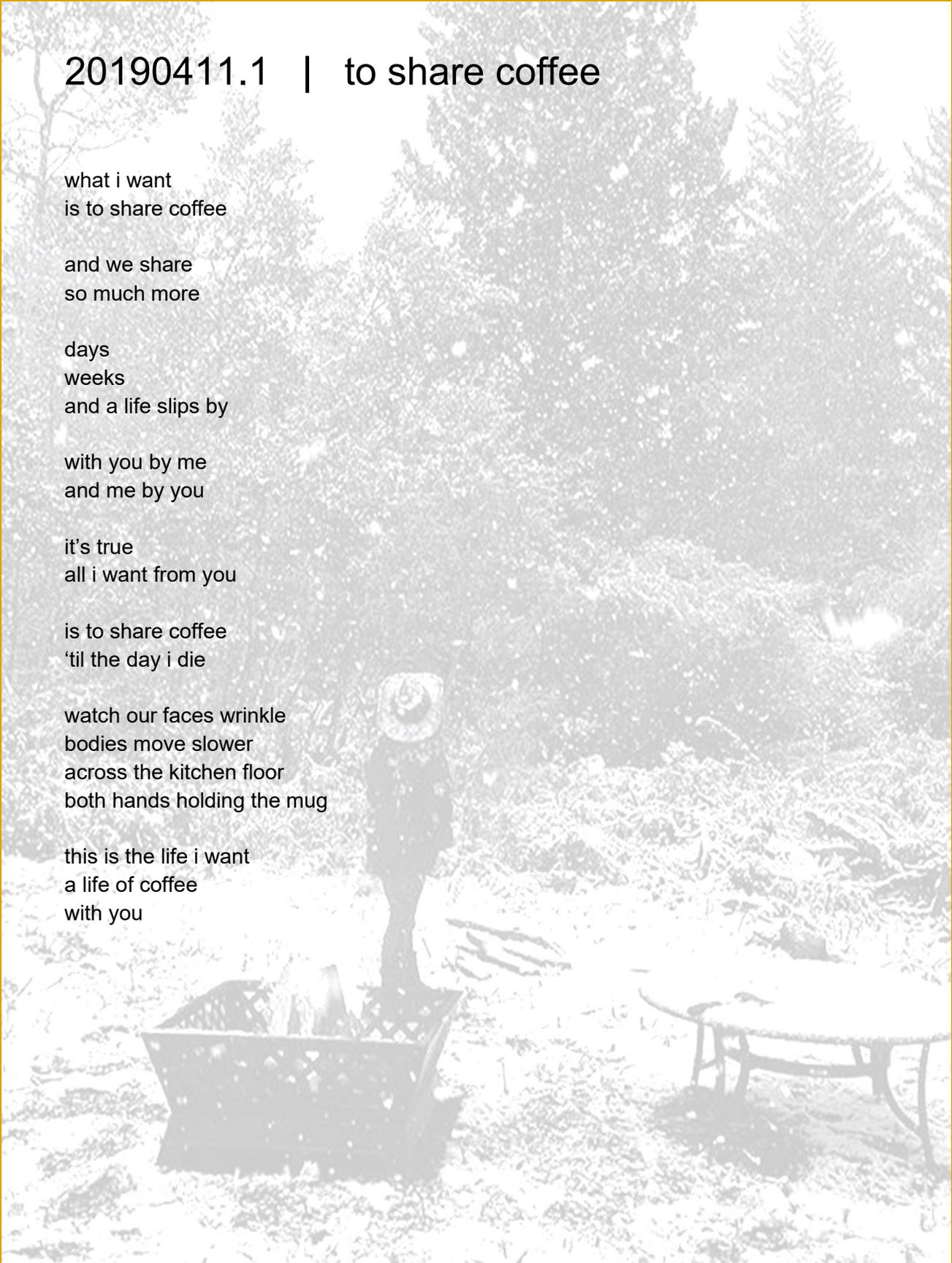
with you by me
and me by you

it's true
all i want from you

is to share coffee
'til the day i die

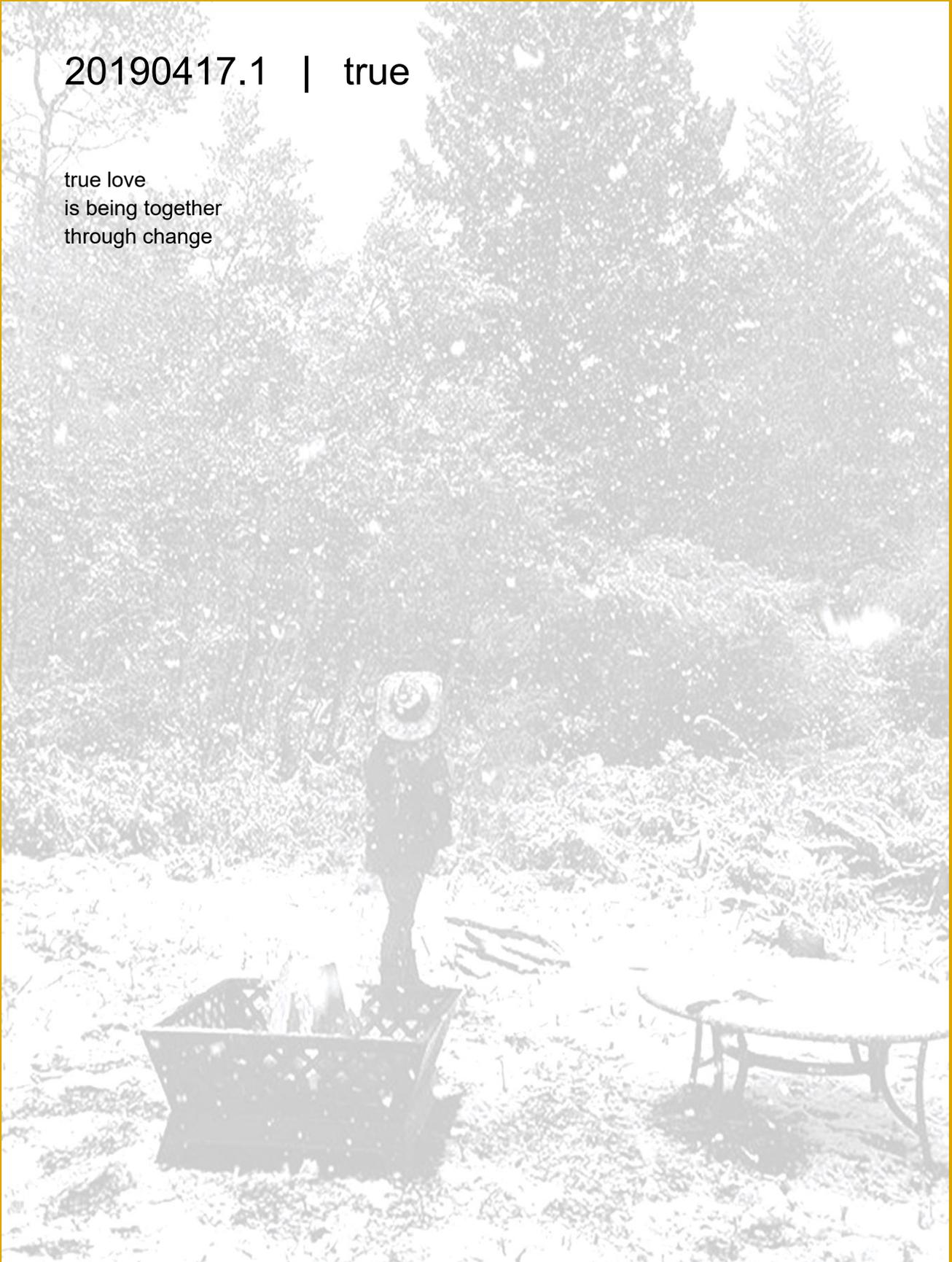
watch our faces wrinkle
bodies move slower
across the kitchen floor
both hands holding the mug

this is the life i want
a life of coffee
with you



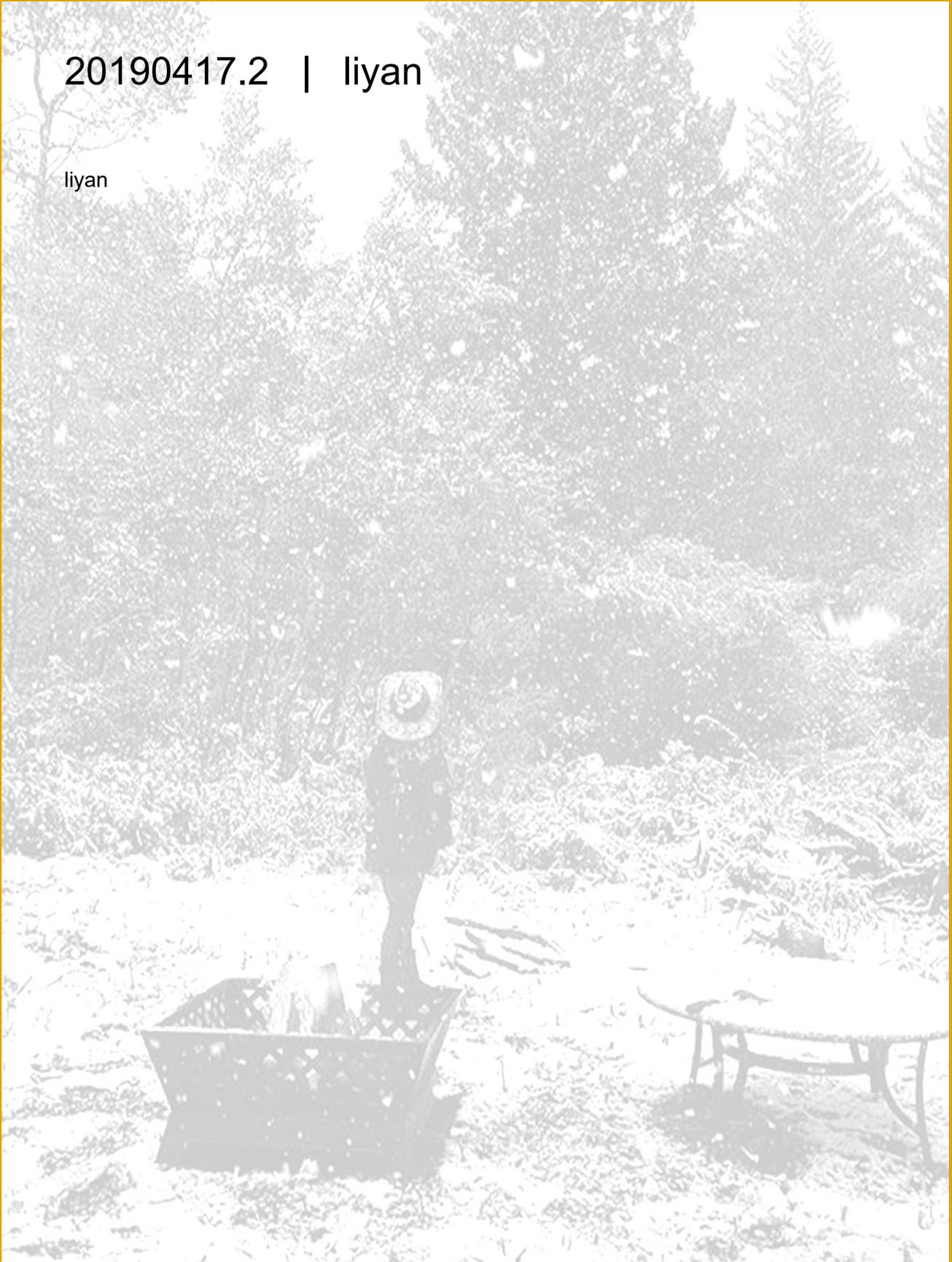
20190417.1 | true

true love
is being together
through change



20190417.2 | liyan

liyan



20190417.3 | slip

somehow

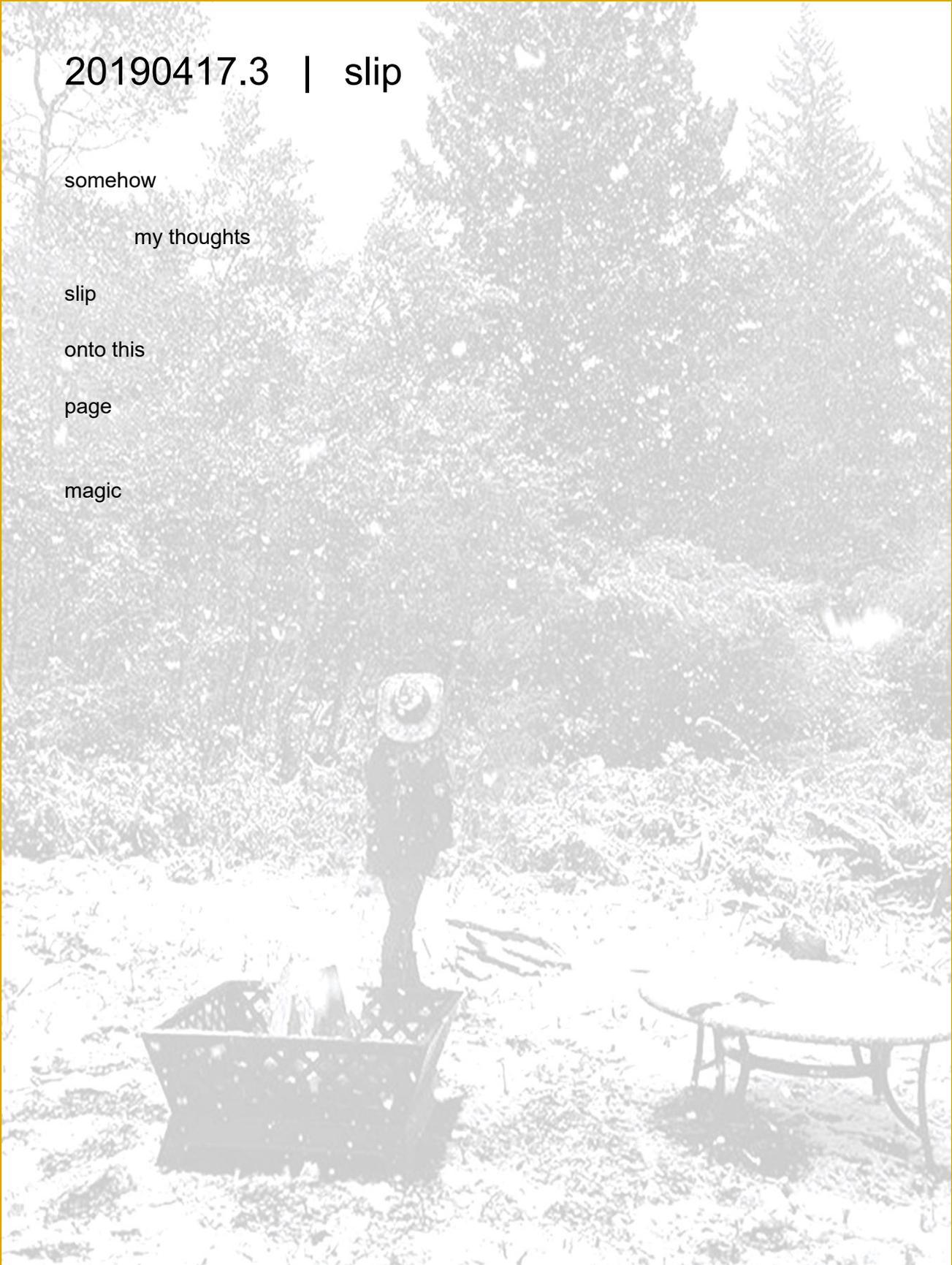
my thoughts

slip

onto this

page

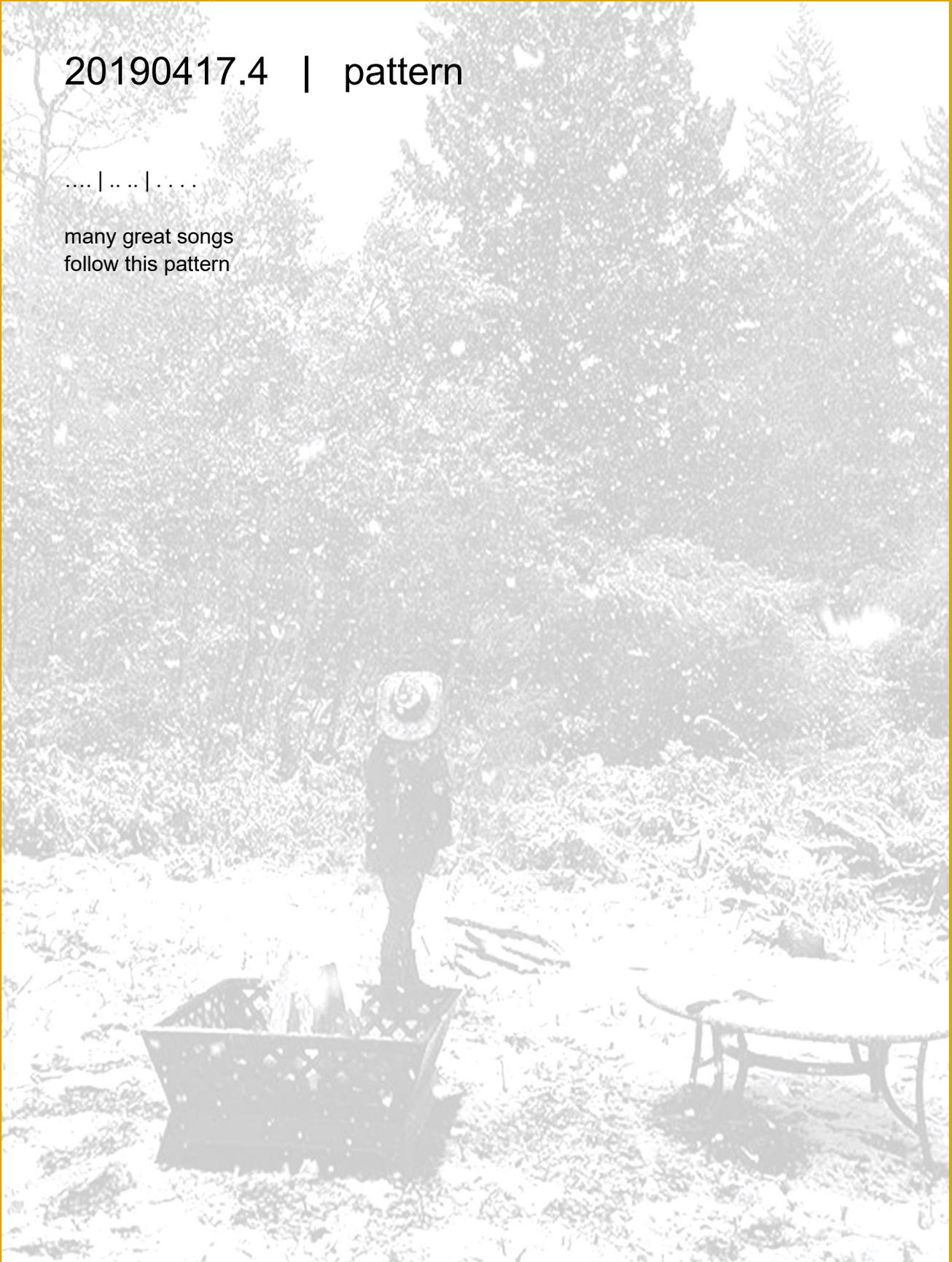
magic



20190417.4 | pattern

....|....|....

many great songs
follow this pattern



20190418.1 | binary

love is binary

0

1

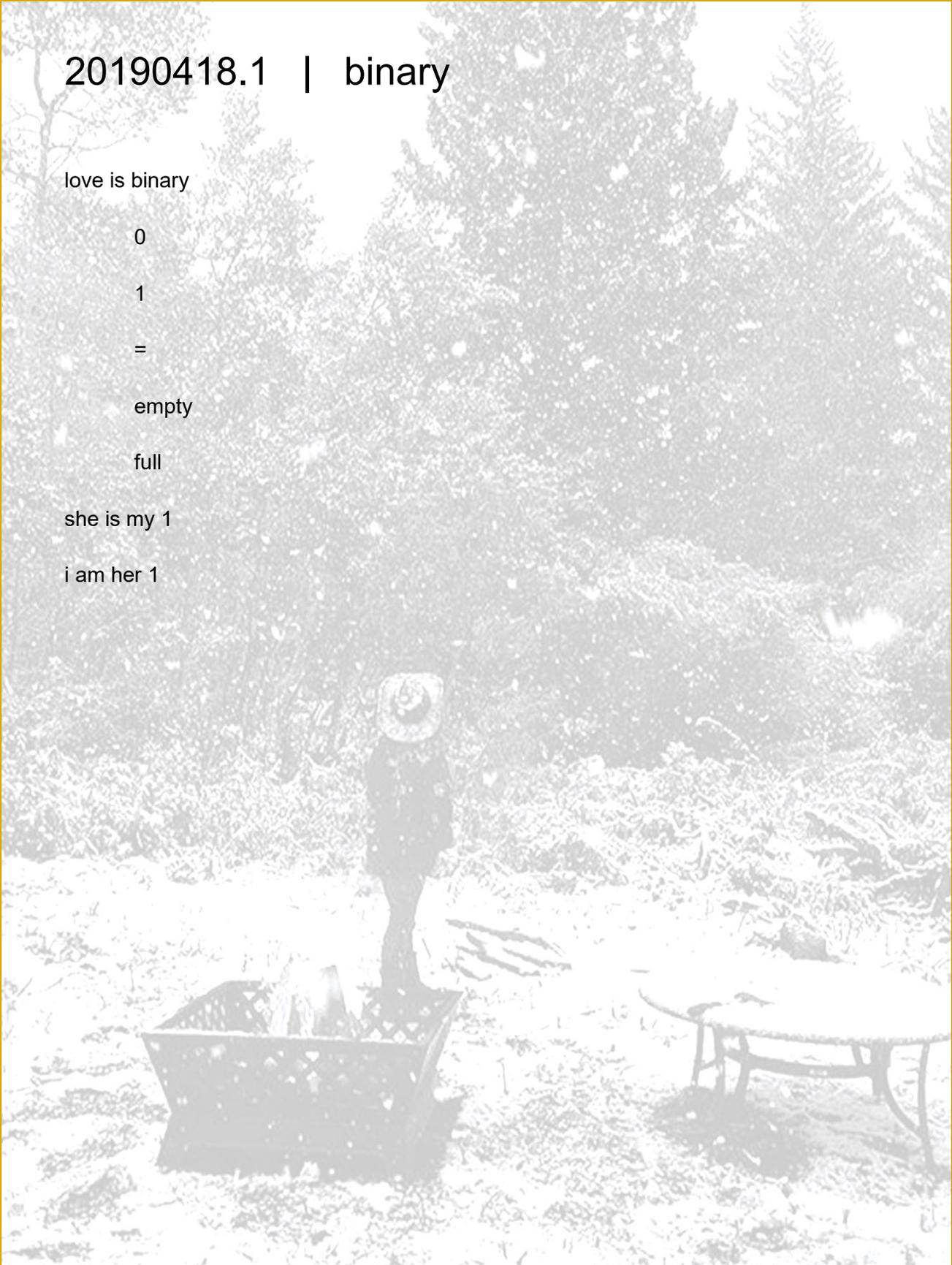
=

empty

full

she is my 1

i am her 1



20190418.2 | owned by

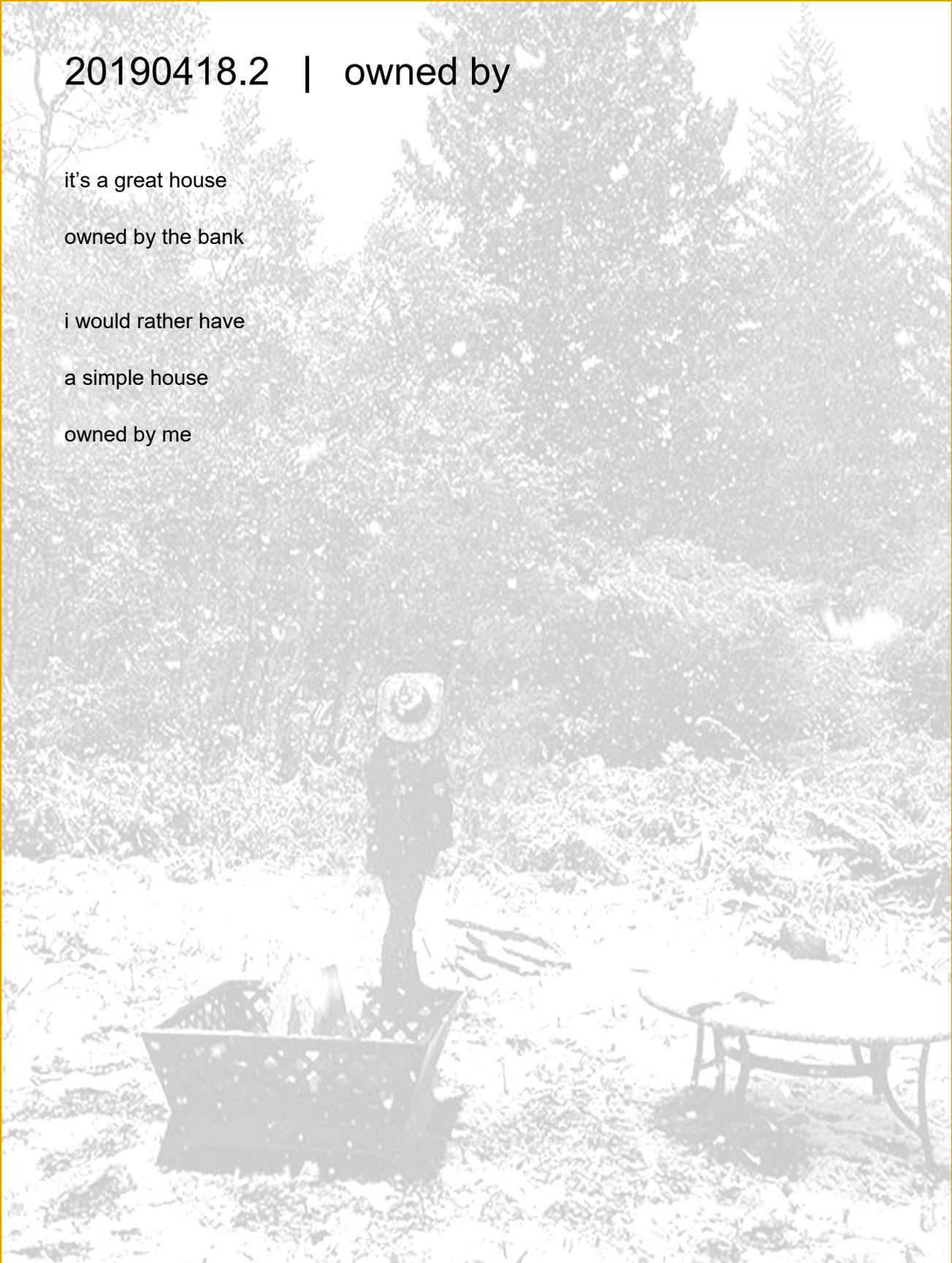
it's a great house

owned by the bank

i would rather have

a simple house

owned by me



20190418.3 | primed

believe

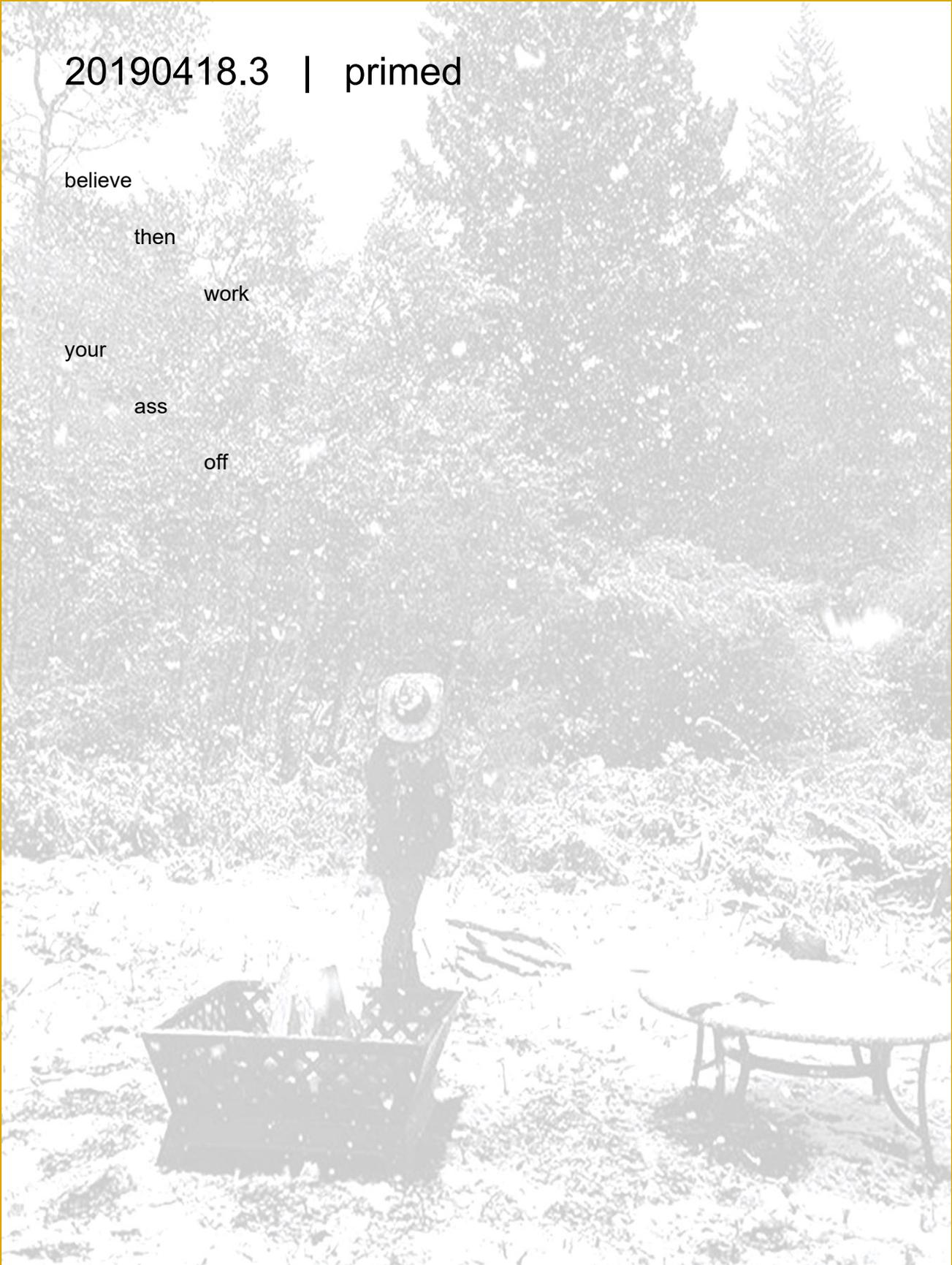
then

work

your

ass

off



20190418.4 | question the driver

we are all

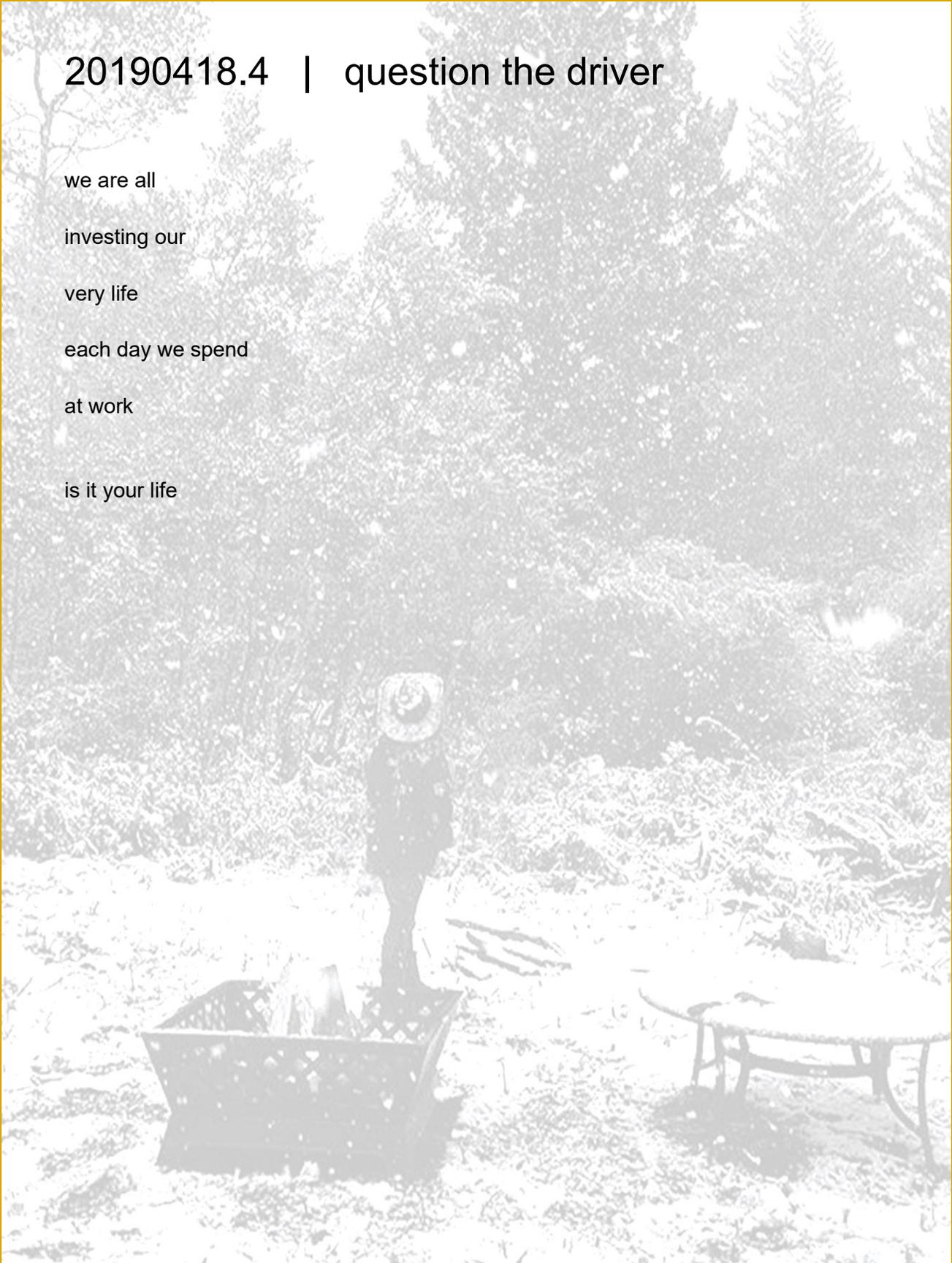
investing our

very life

each day we spend

at work

is it your life



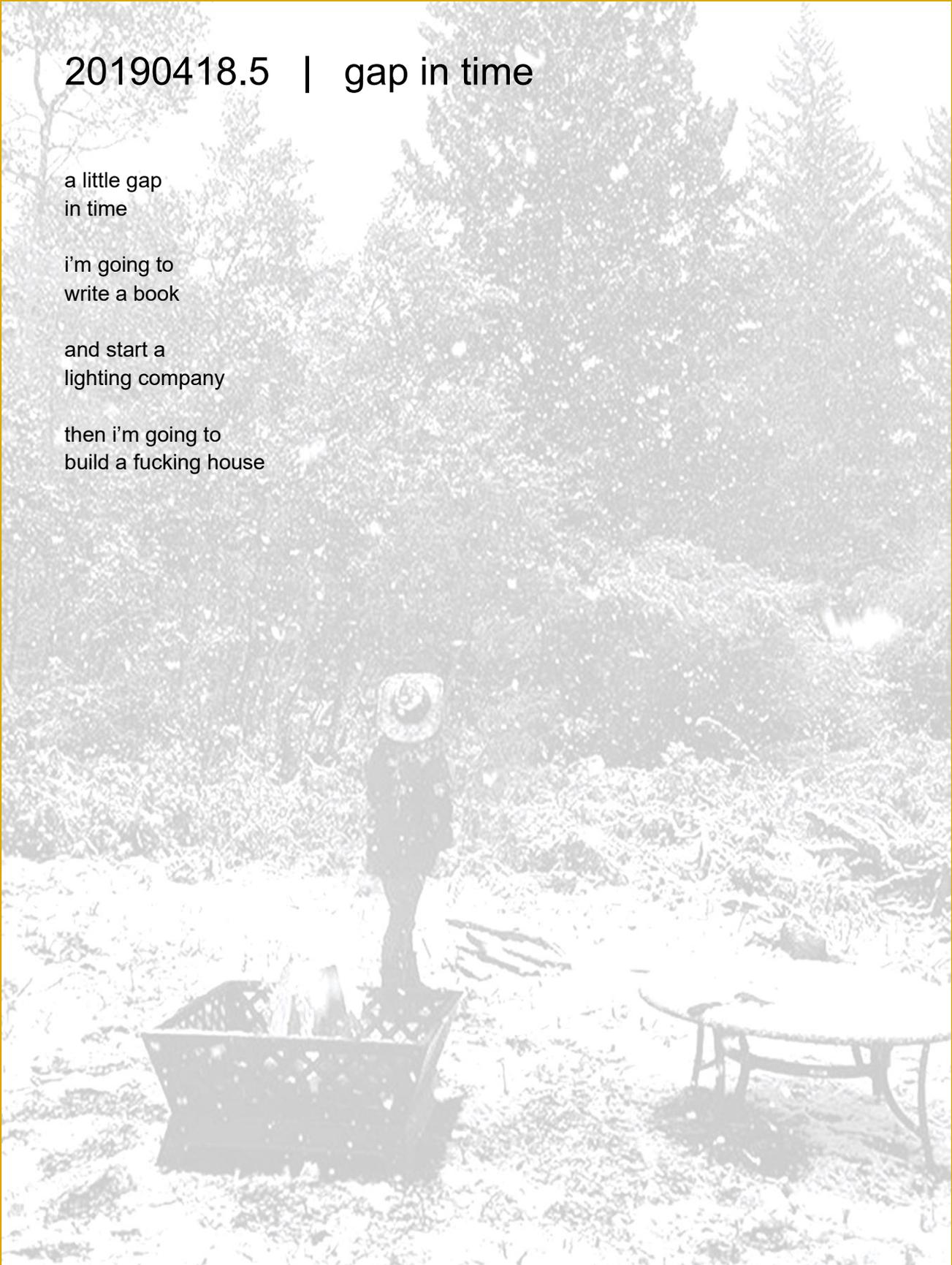
20190418.5 | gap in time

a little gap
in time

i'm going to
write a book

and start a
lighting company

then i'm going to
build a fucking house



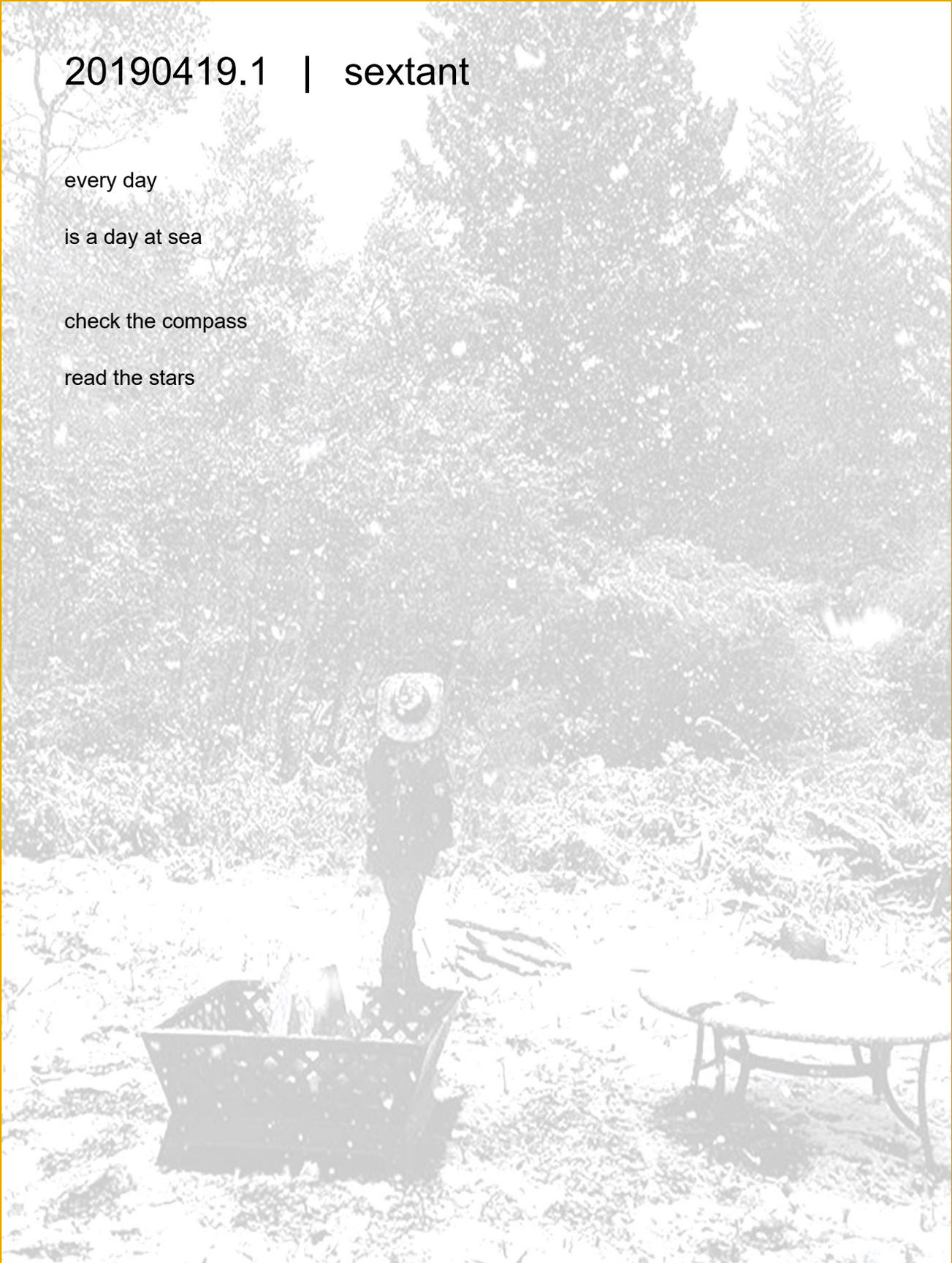
20190419.1 | sextant

every day

is a day at sea

check the compass

read the stars

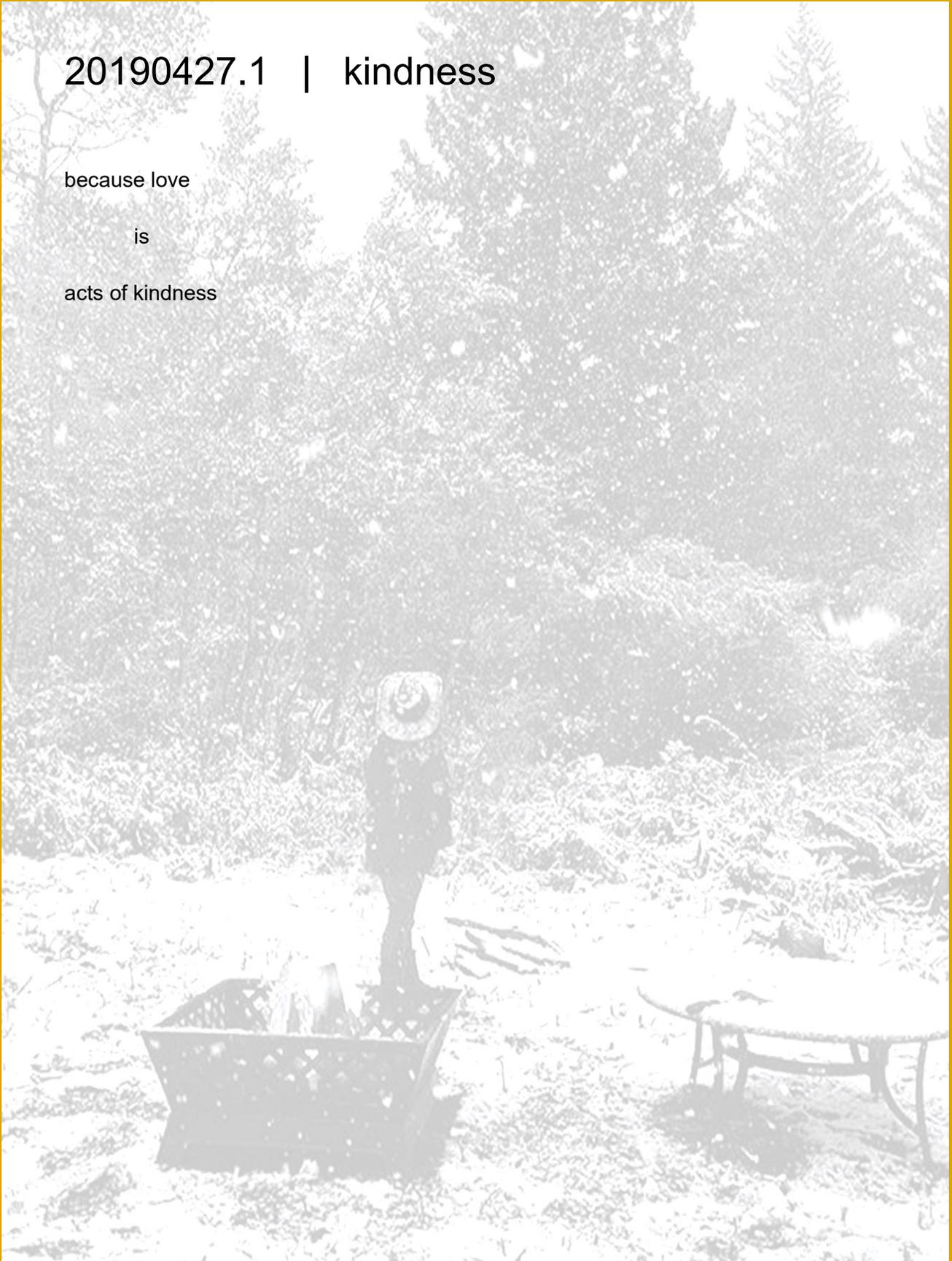


20190427.1 | kindness

because love

is

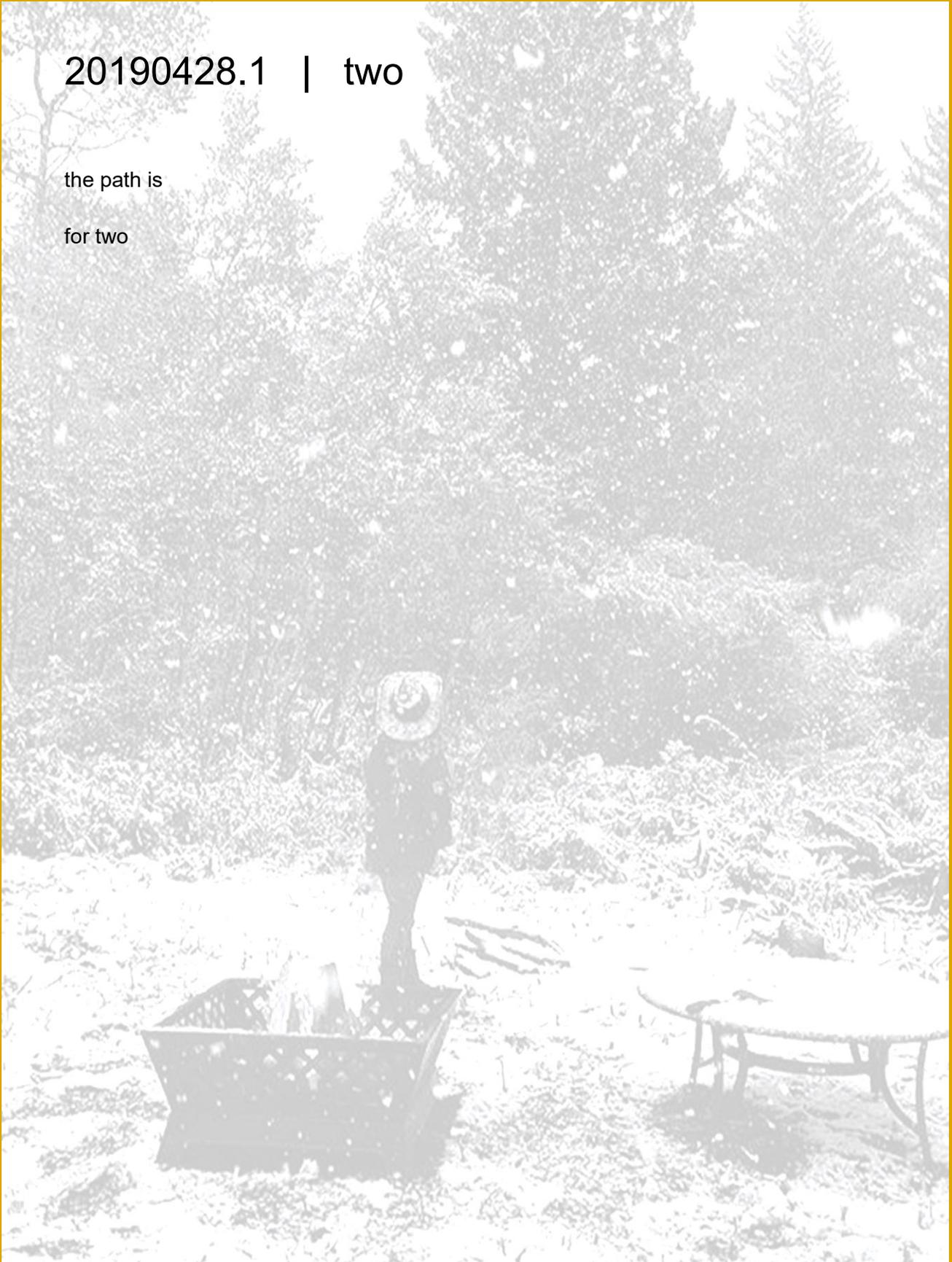
acts of kindness



20190428.1 | two

the path is

for two



20190428.2 | chinese queen

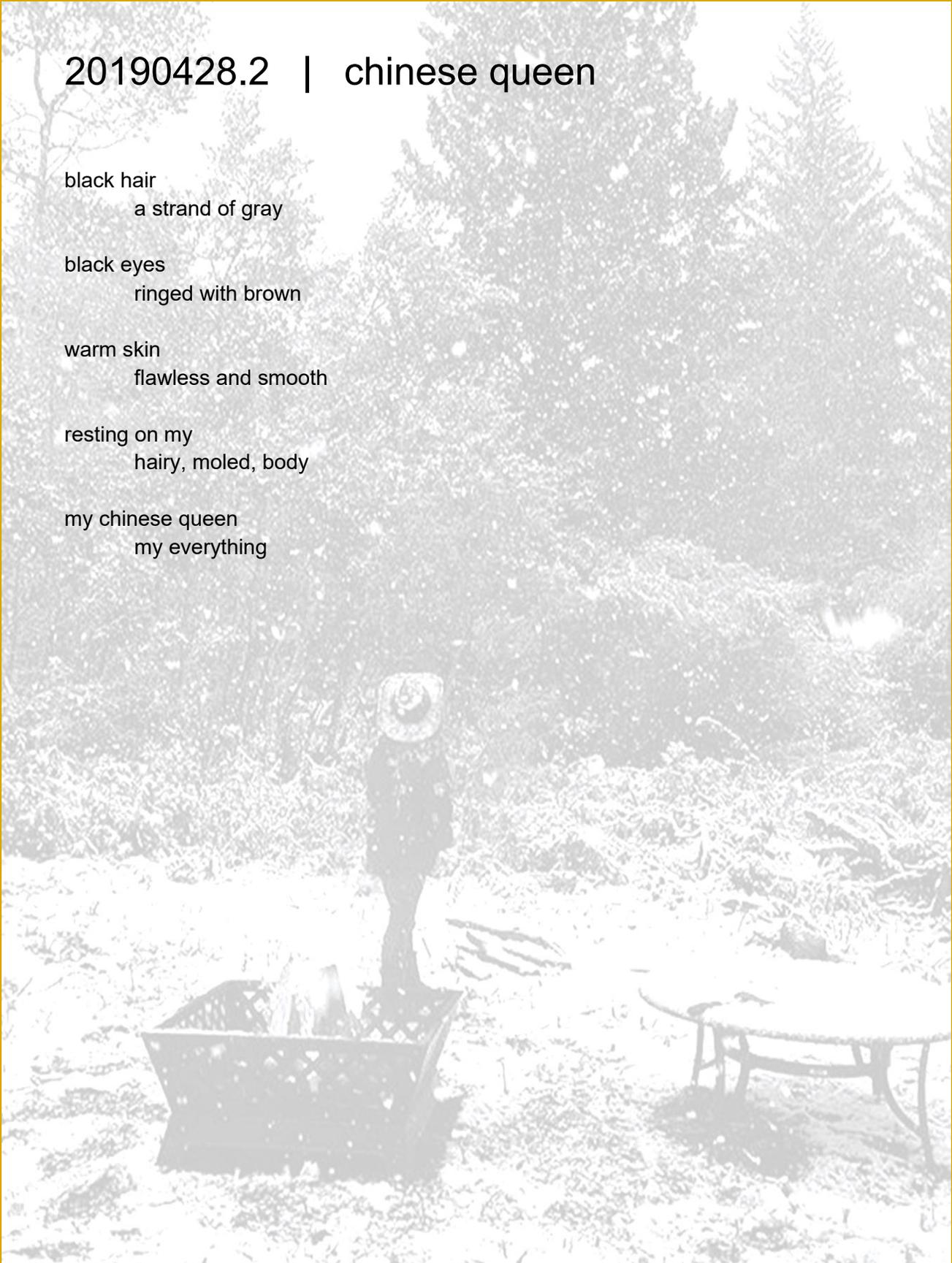
black hair
a strand of gray

black eyes
ringed with brown

warm skin
flawless and smooth

resting on my
hairy, moled, body

my chinese queen
my everything



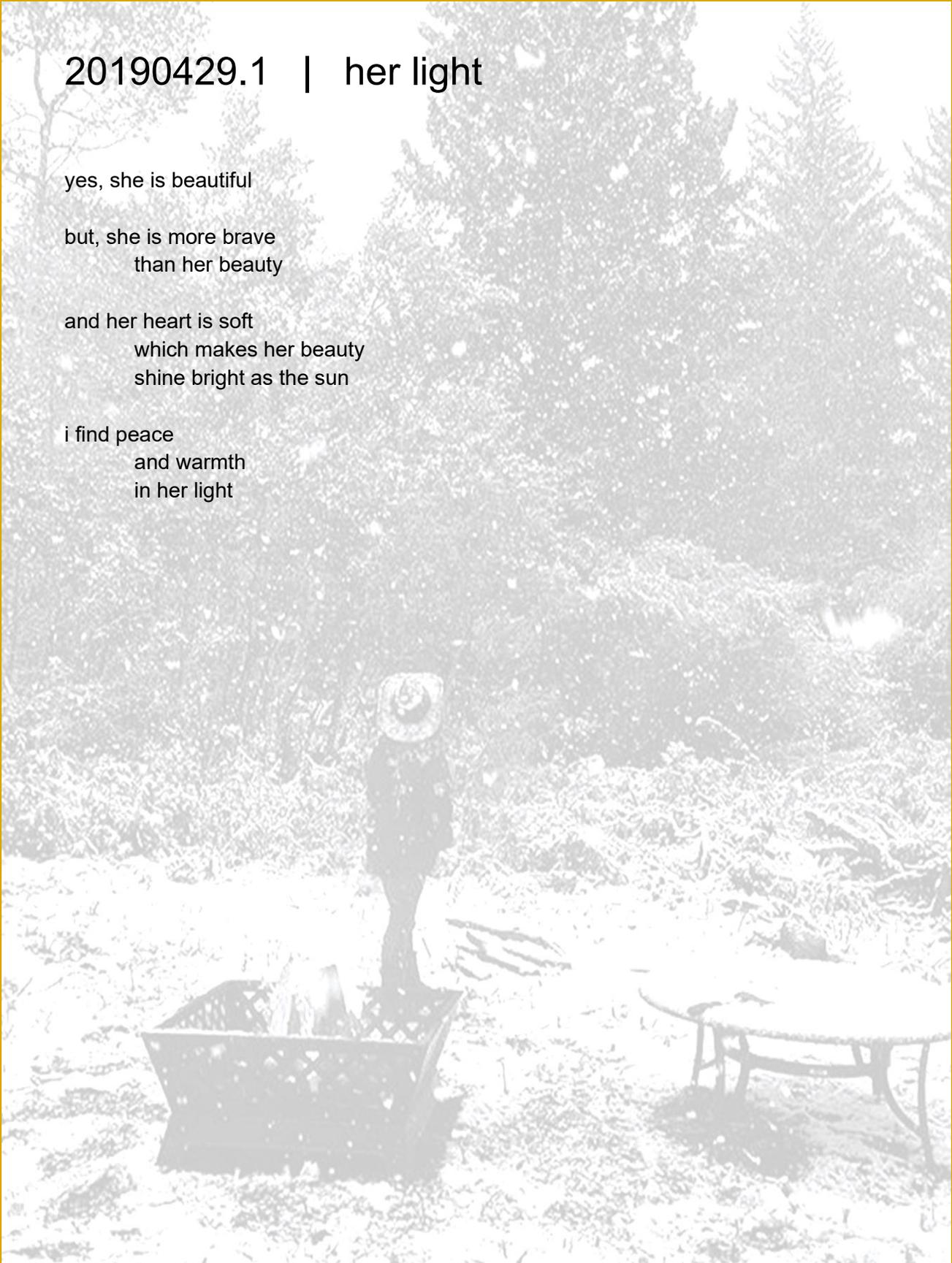
20190429.1 | her light

yes, she is beautiful

but, she is more brave
than her beauty

and her heart is soft
which makes her beauty
shine bright as the sun

i find peace
and warmth
in her light



20190430.1 | free

today i belonged

to no one

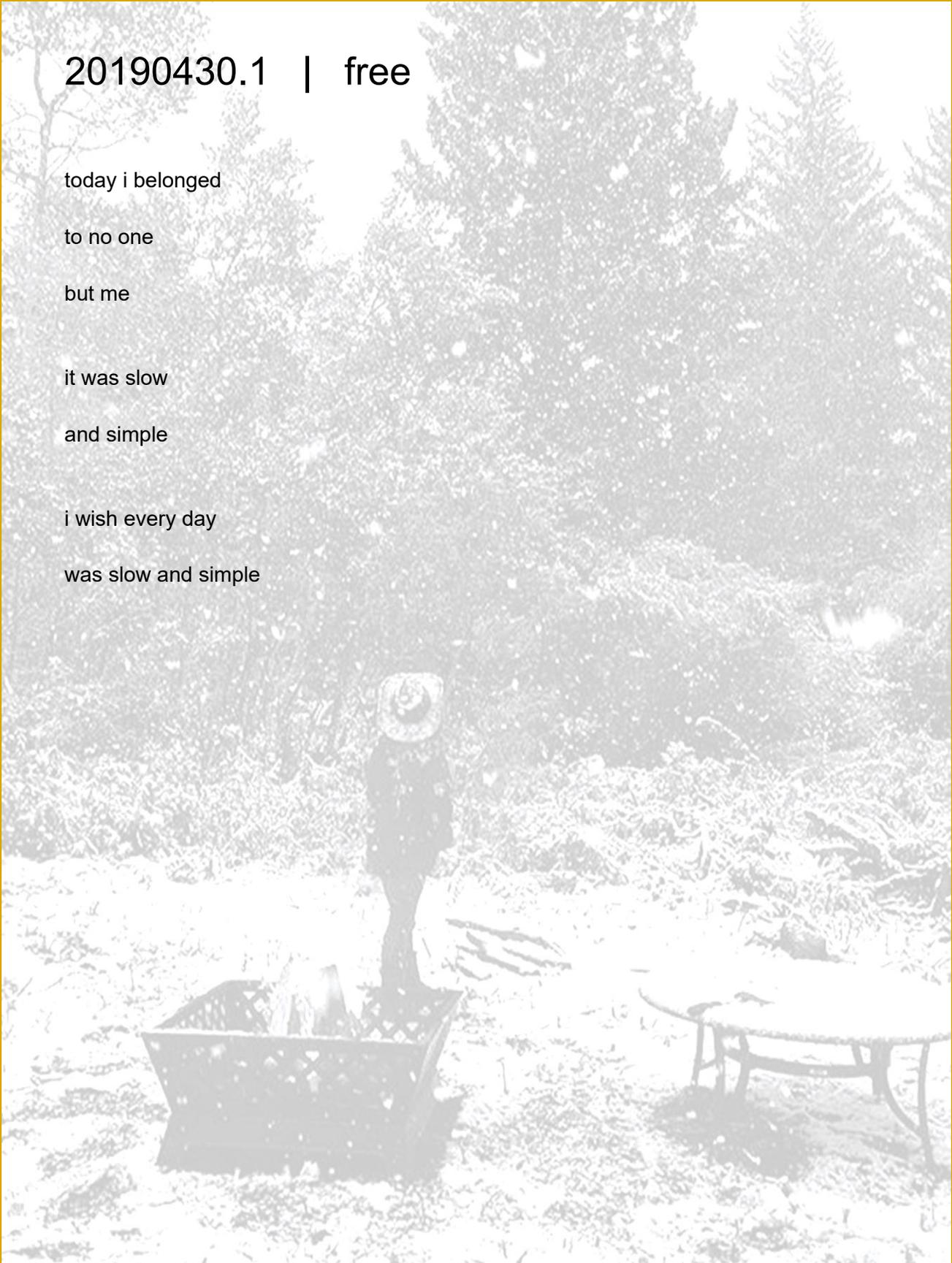
but me

it was slow

and simple

i wish every day

was slow and simple



20190508.1 | wish i

i wish

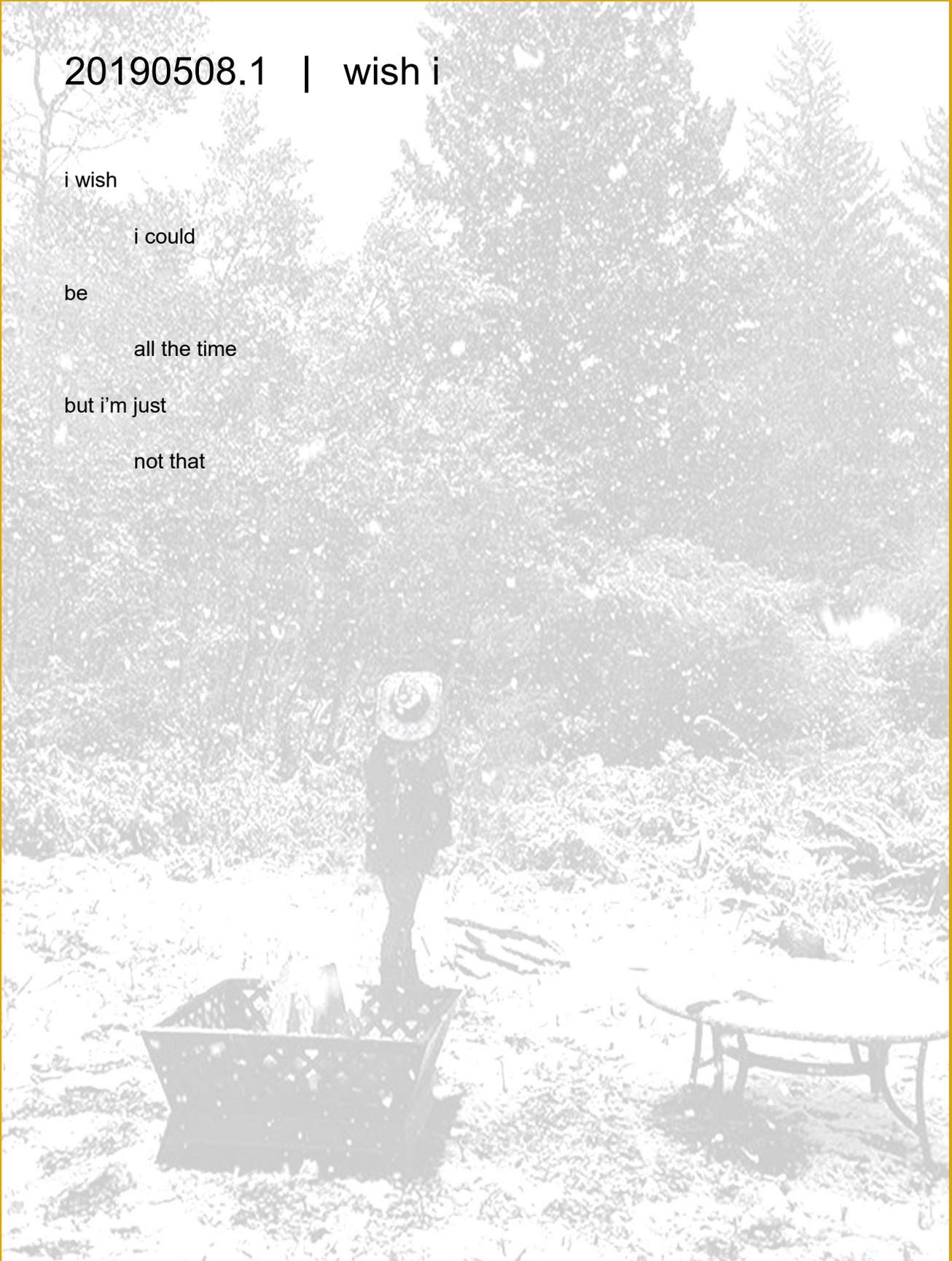
i could

be

all the time

but i'm just

not that



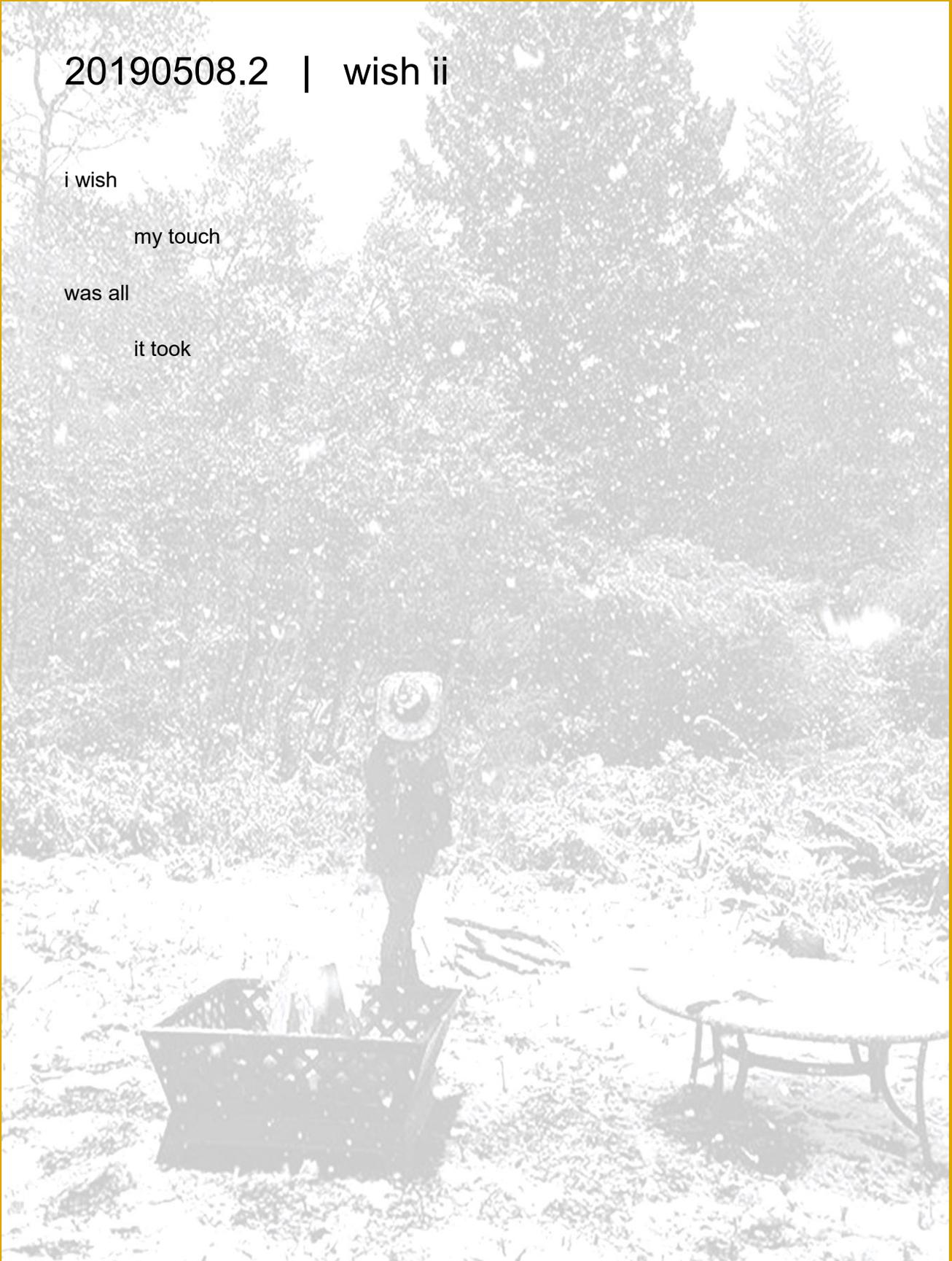
20190508.2 | wish ii

i wish

my touch

was all

it took



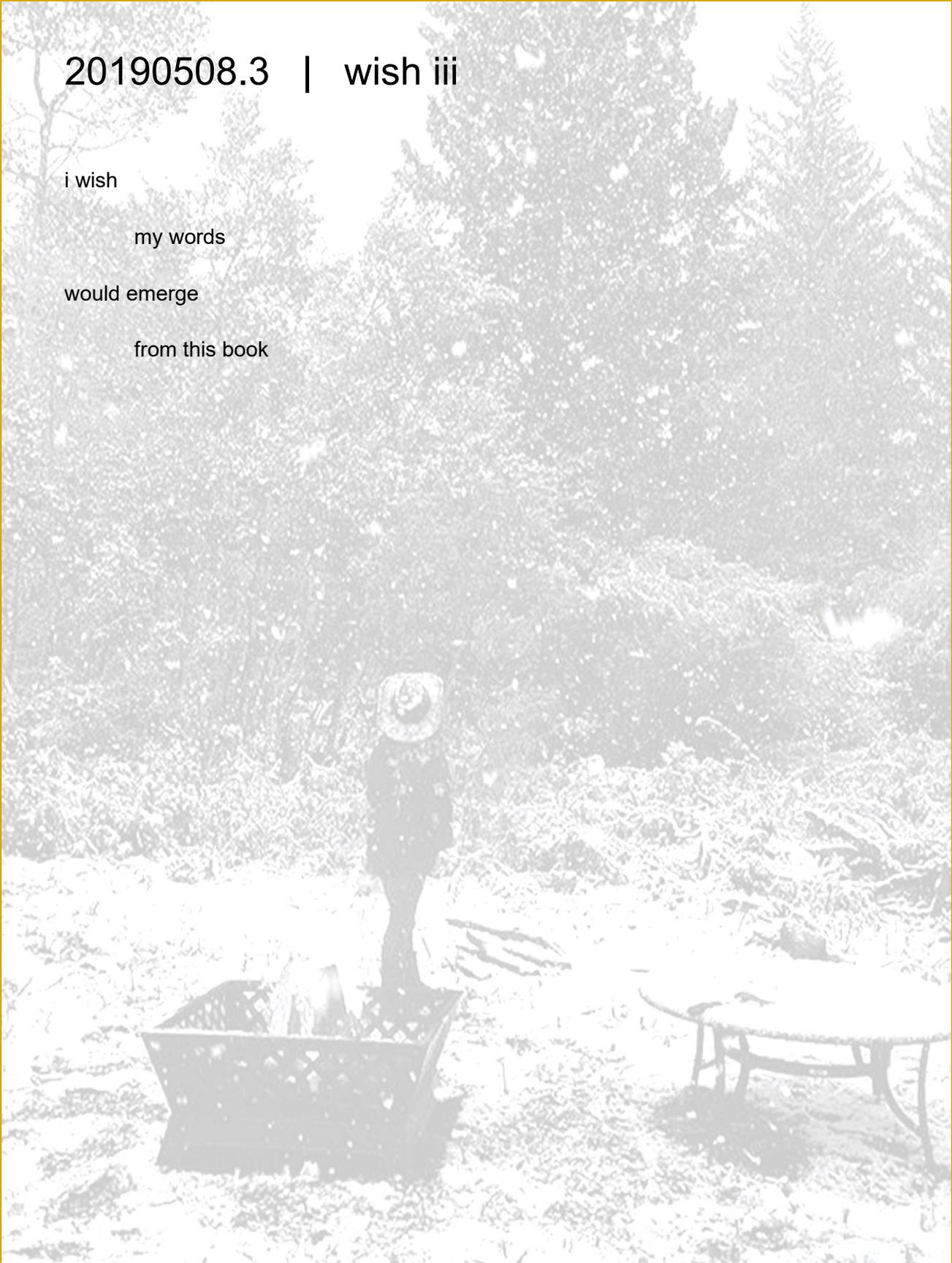
20190508.3 | wish iii

i wish

my words

would emerge

from this book



20190508.4 | wish iv

i wish

perfect love

was more

than a moment

in time

more than

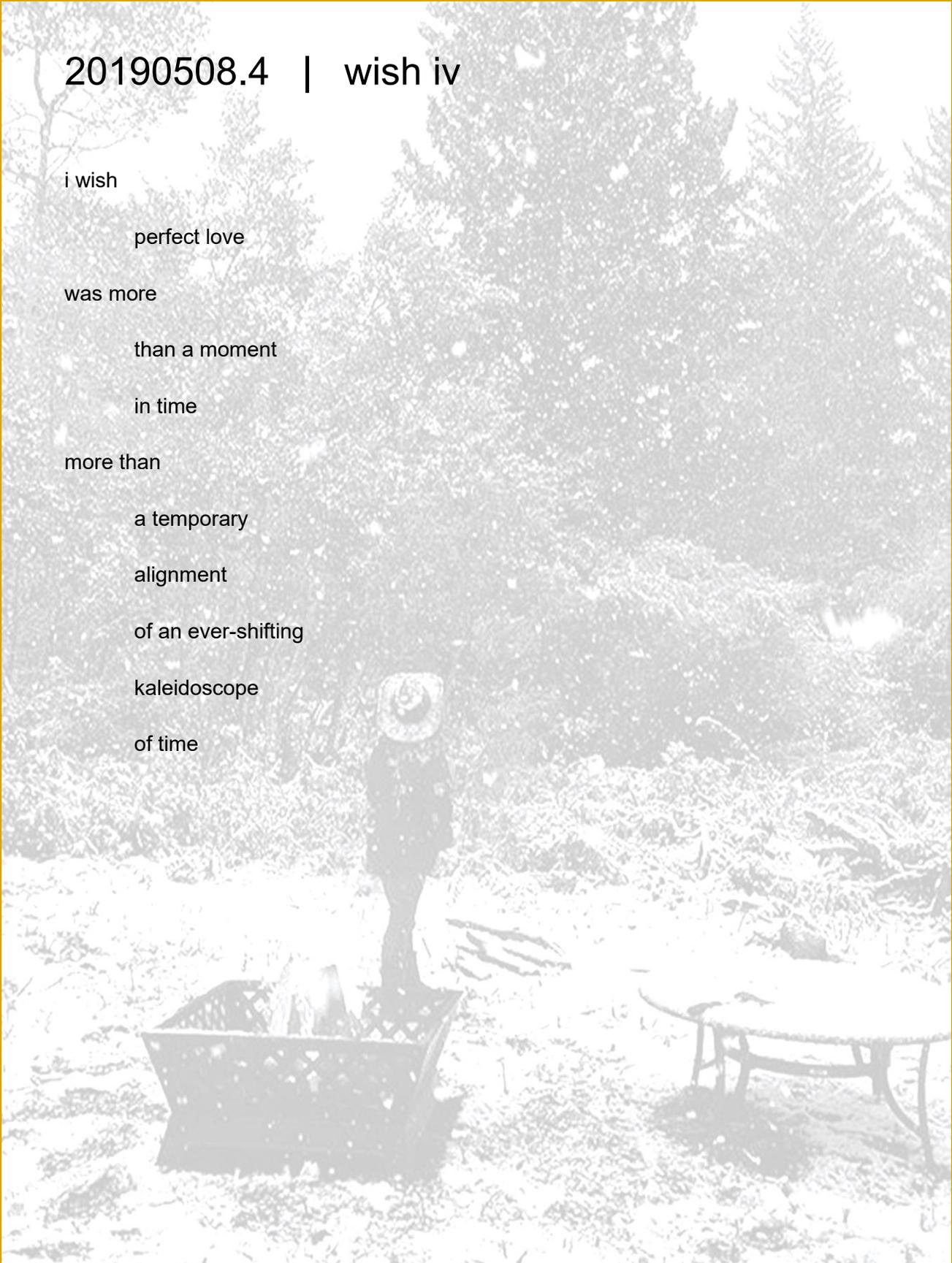
a temporary

alignment

of an ever-shifting

kaleidoscope

of time



20190508.5 | wish v

i wish

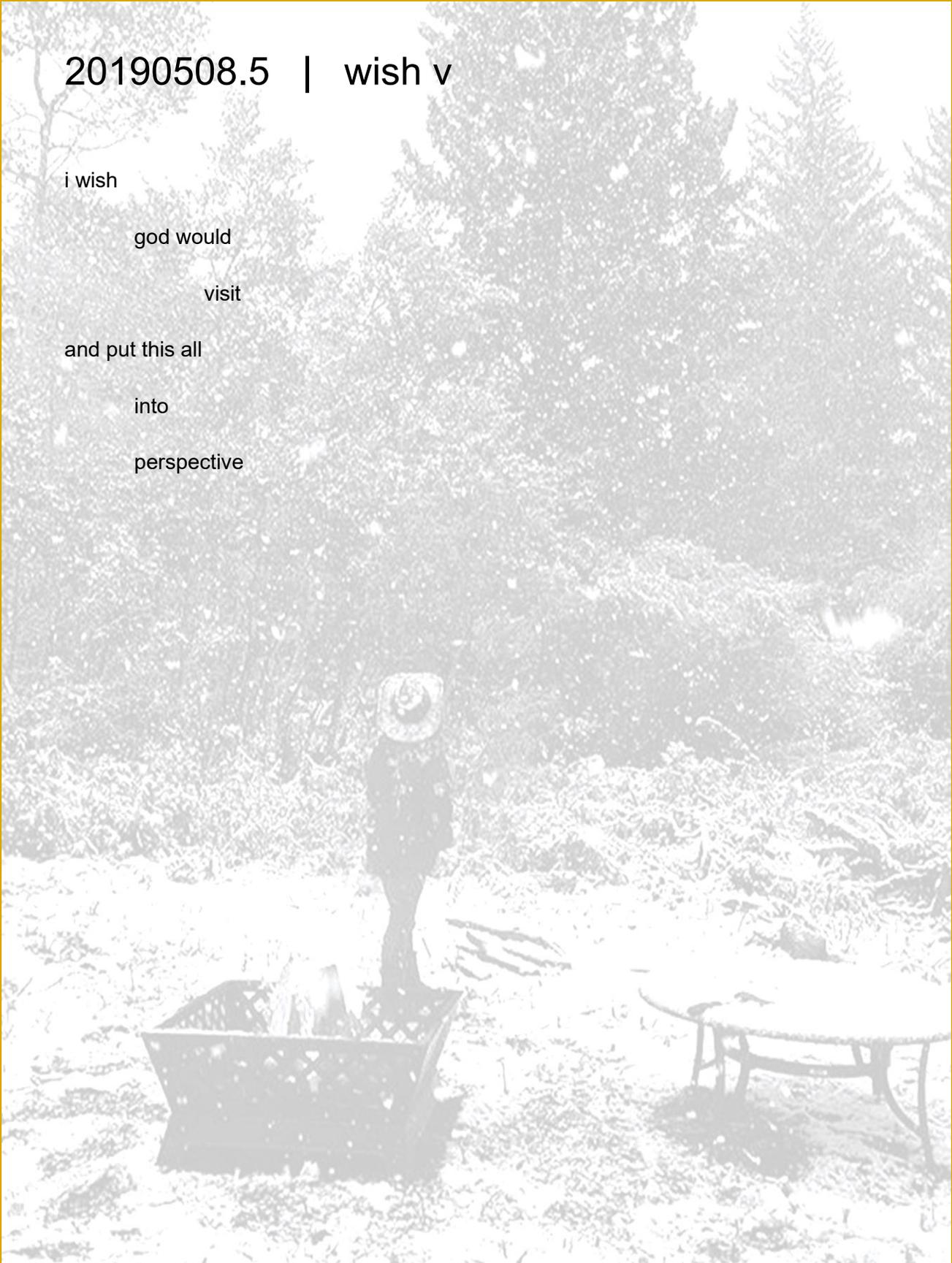
god would

visit

and put this all

into

perspective



20190508.6 | wish vi

i wish

i had become

more

by this age

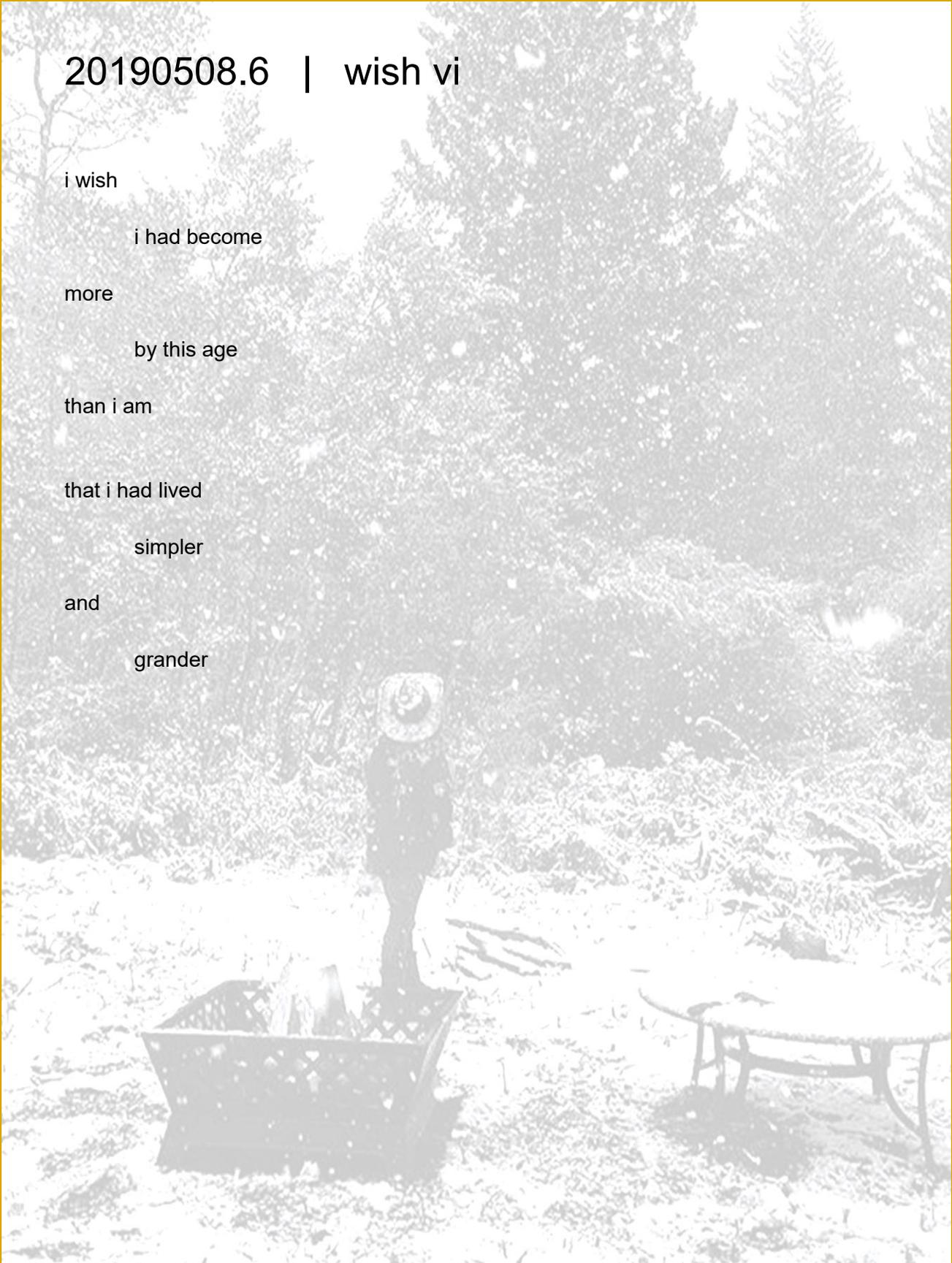
than i am

that i had lived

simpler

and

grander



20190508.7 | wish vii

i wish

my dream

comes true

a life

lived simple

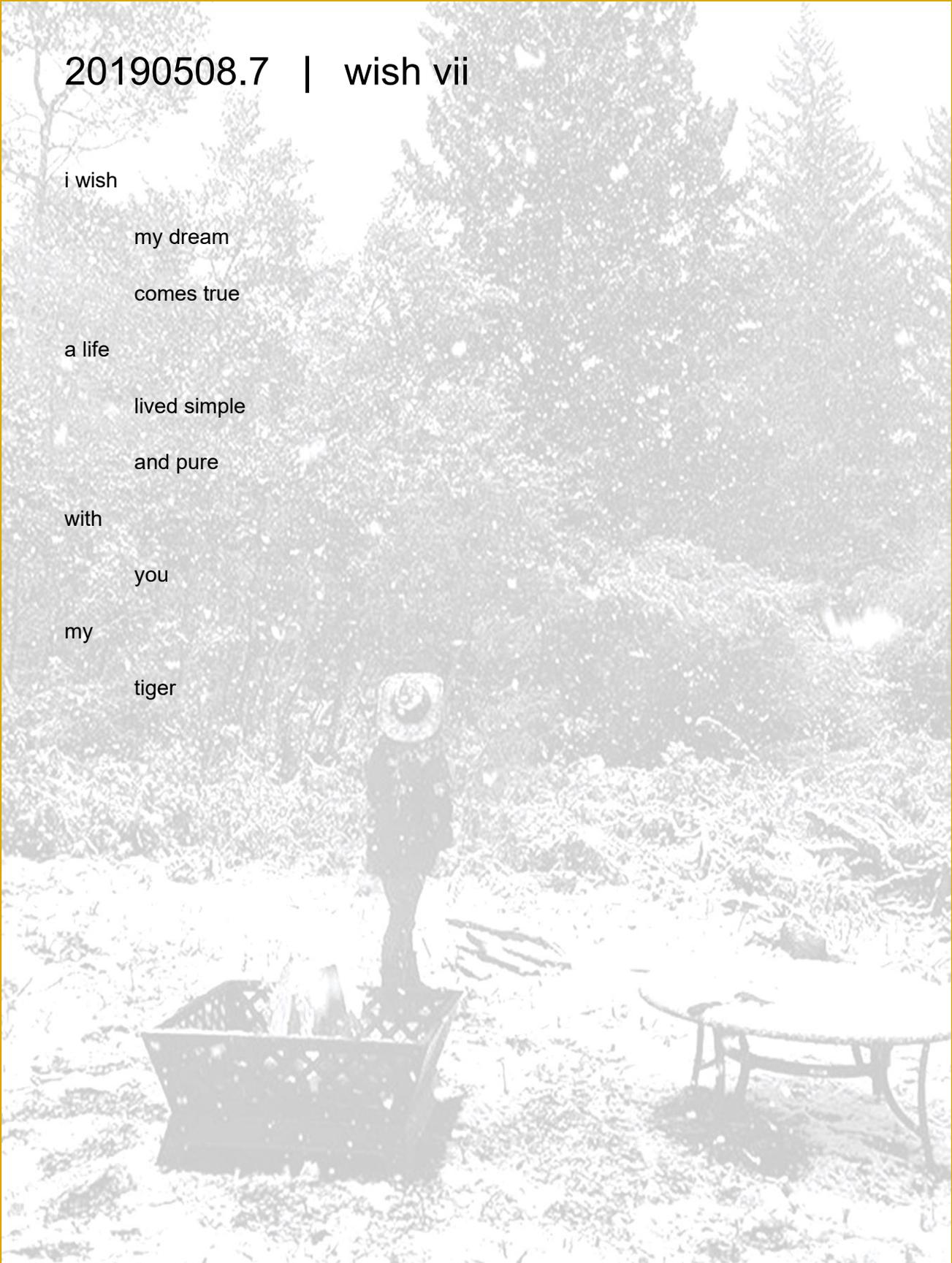
and pure

with

you

my

tiger



20190508.8 | wish viii

i wish

sleep were a switch

i could

flip with a

thought

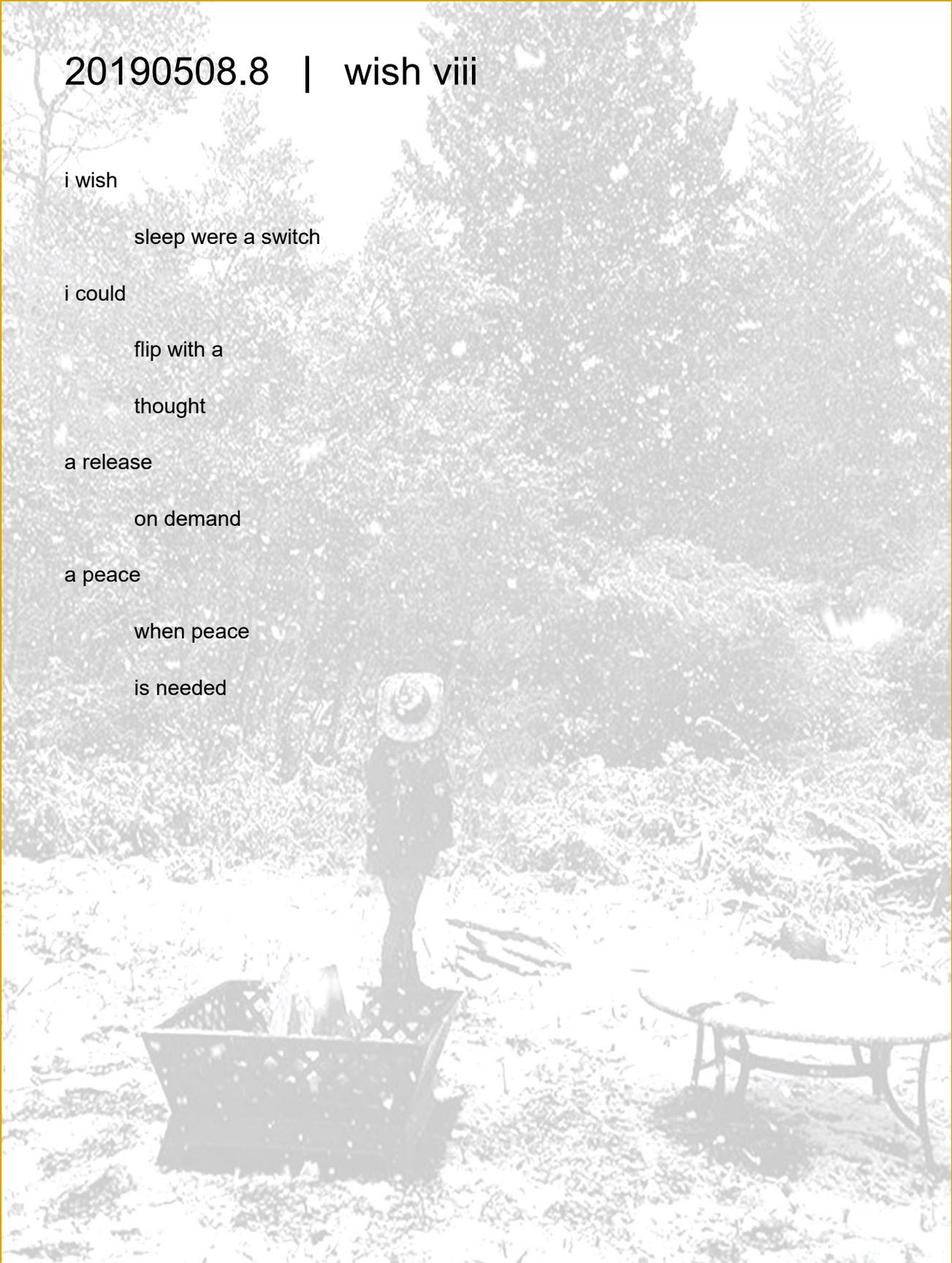
a release

on demand

a peace

when peace

is needed



20190508.9 | wish ix

i wish

i could be

all you need

all the time

but i'm not

all i need

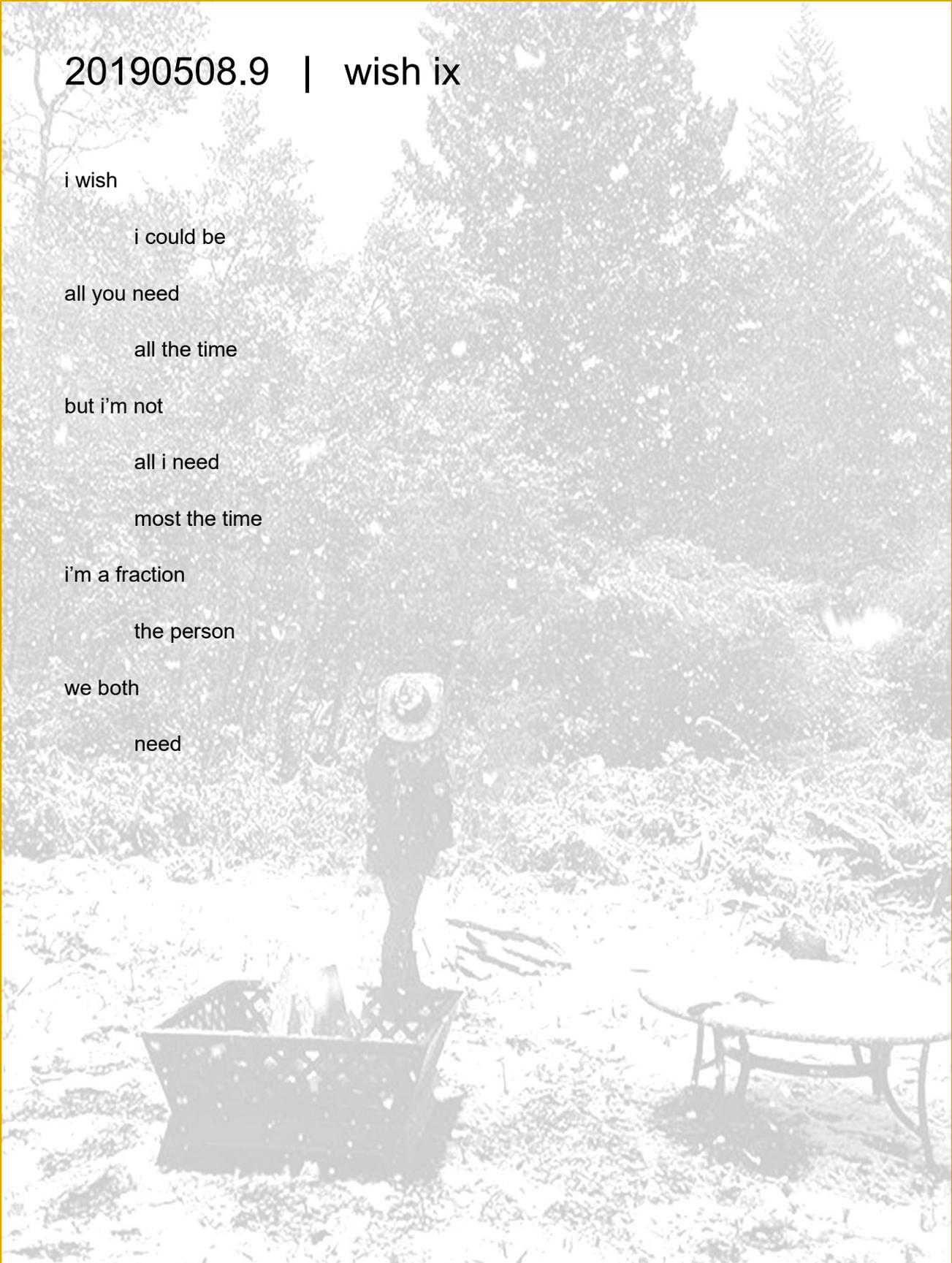
most the time

i'm a fraction

the person

we both

need



20190508.10 | wish x

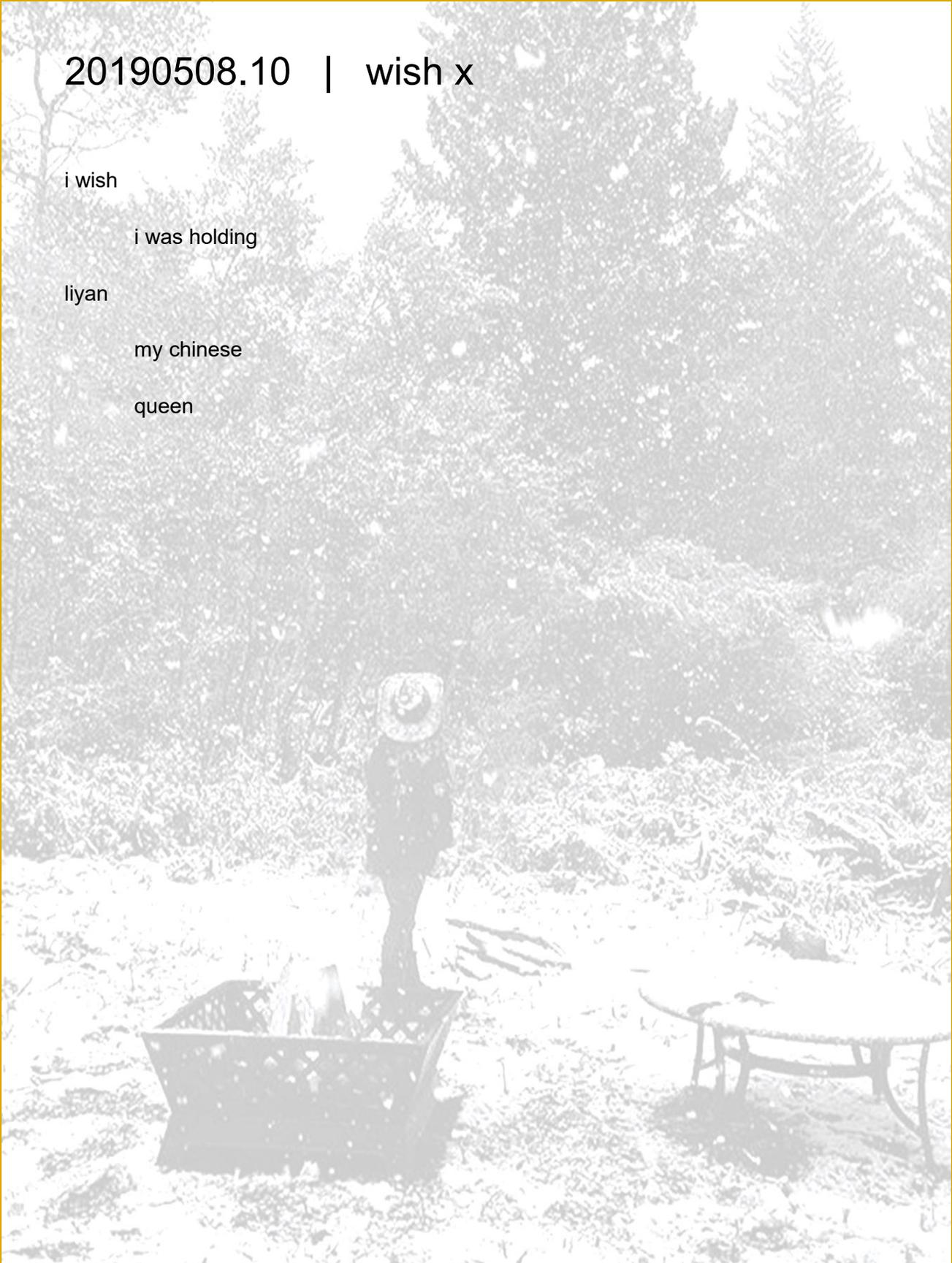
i wish

i was holding

liyan

my chinese

queen



20190508.11 | wish xi

i wish

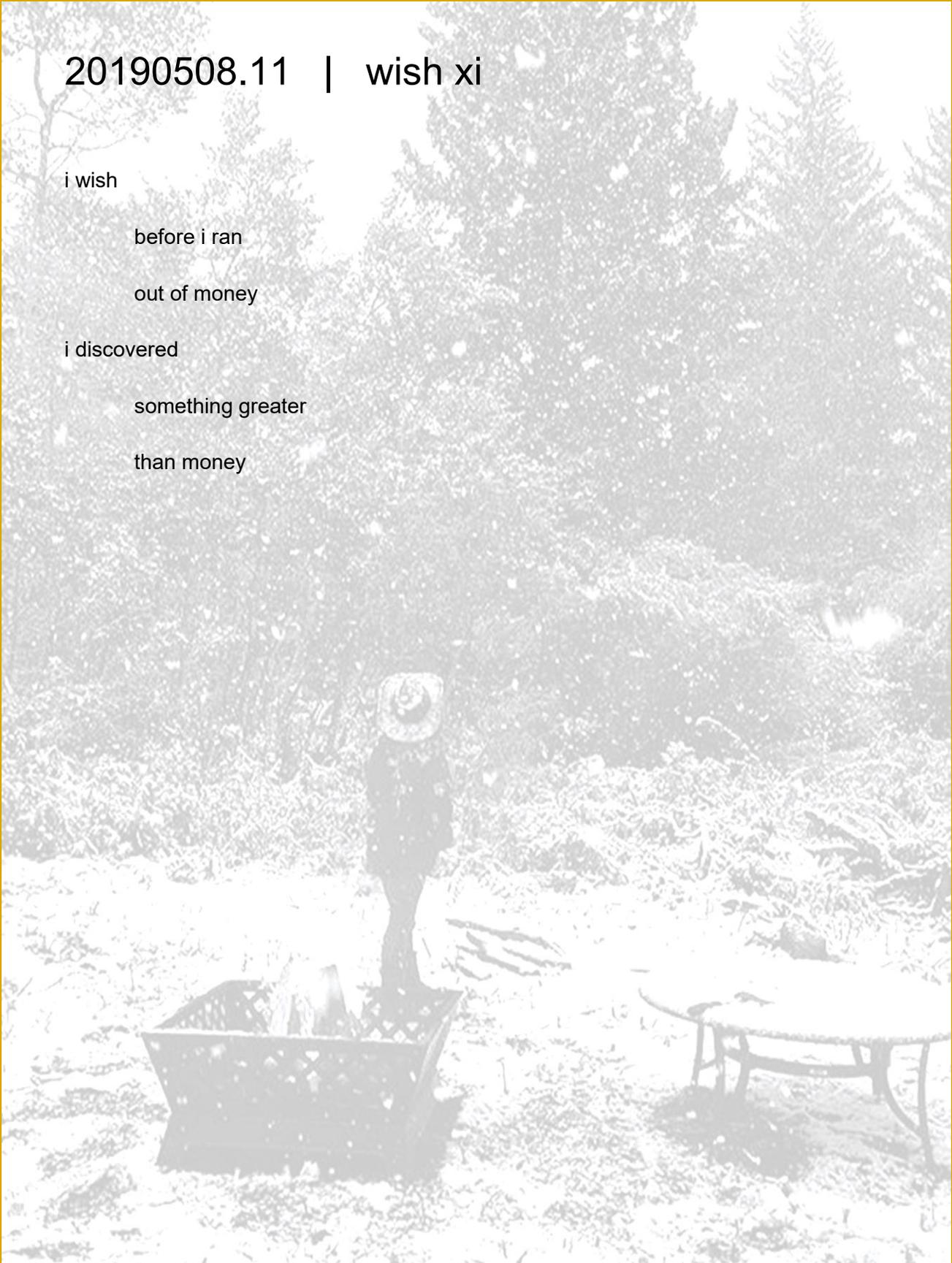
before i ran

out of money

i discovered

something greater

than money



20190508.12 | wish xii

i wish

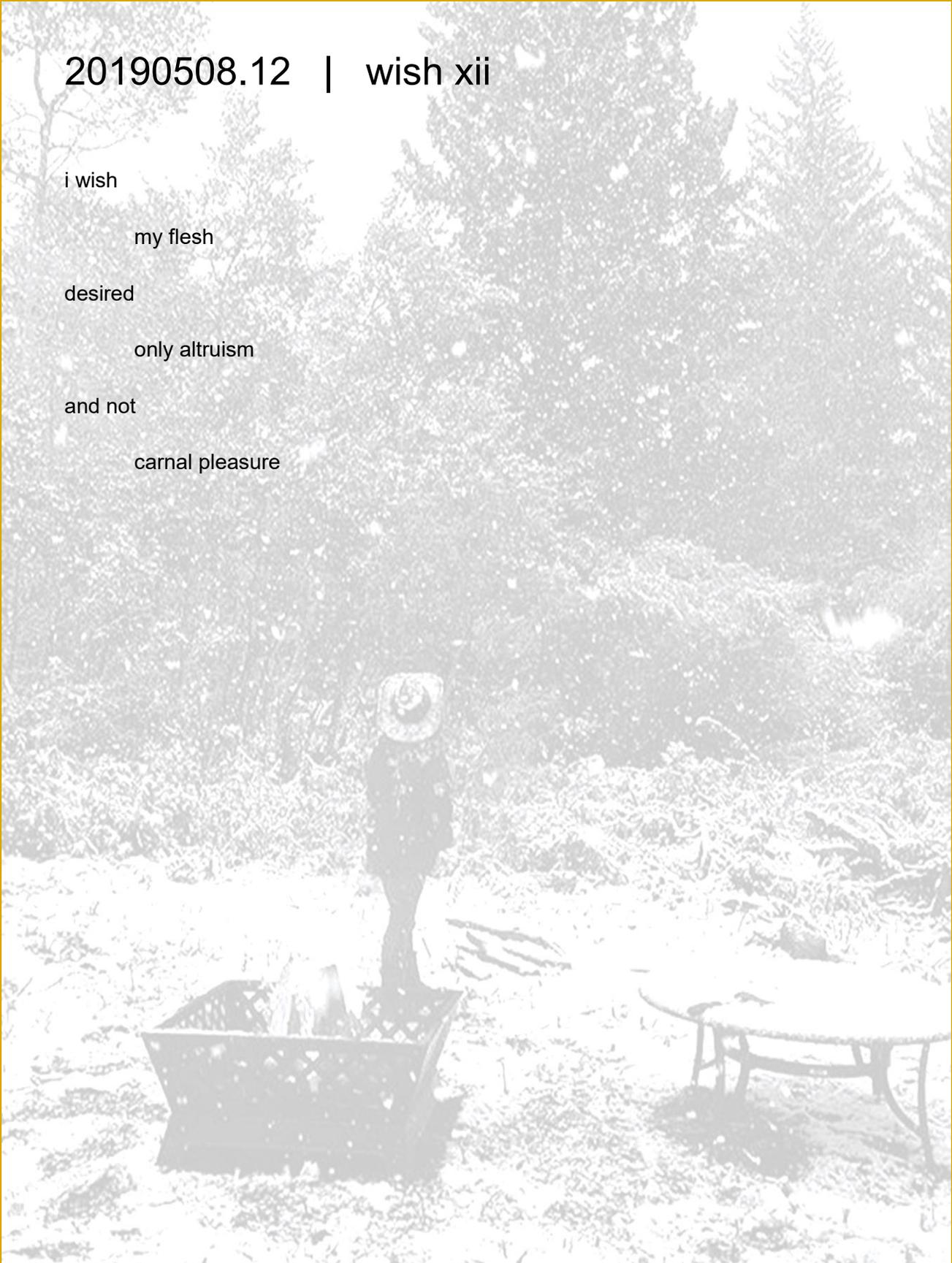
my flesh

desired

only altruism

and not

carnal pleasure



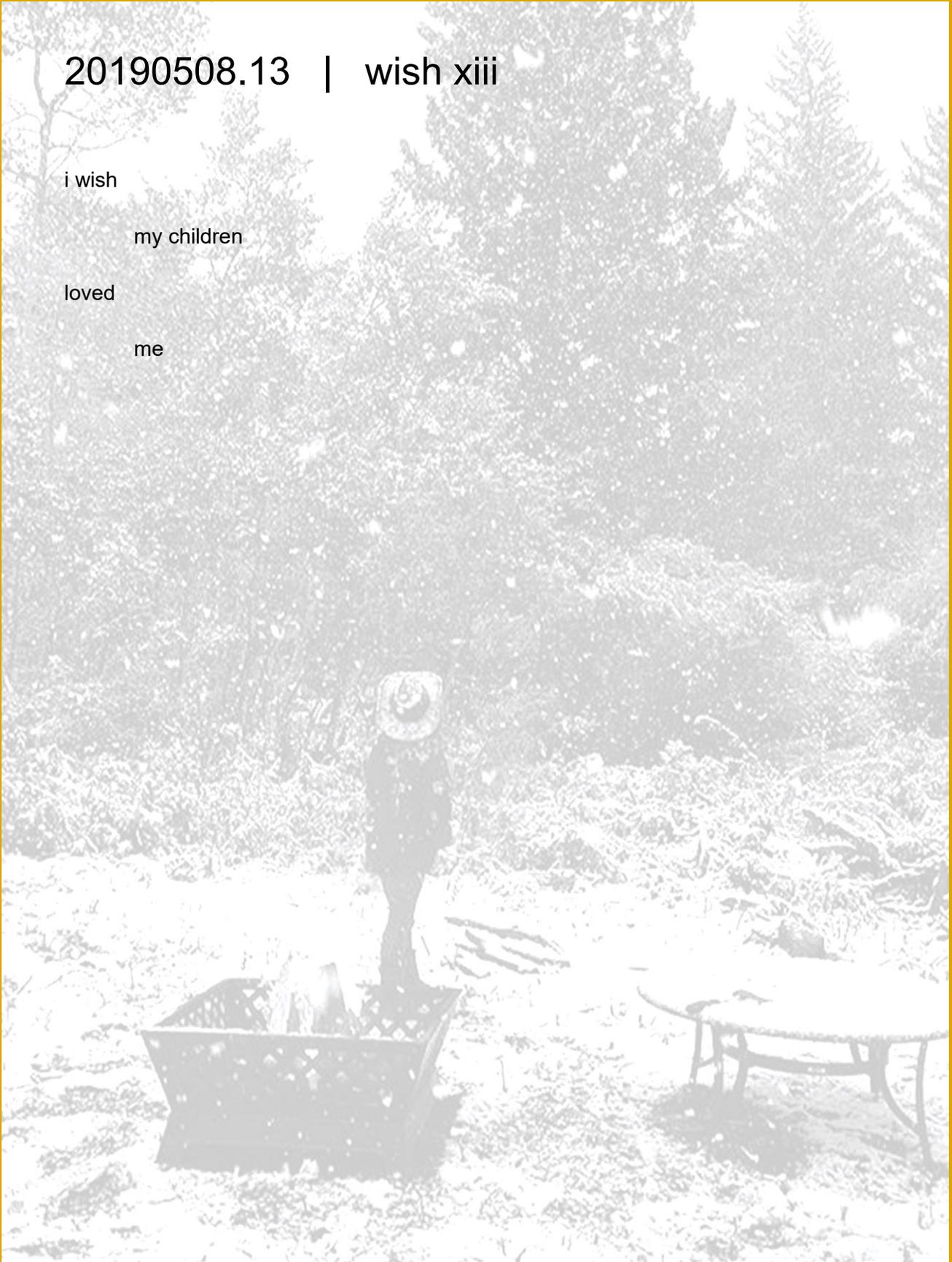
20190508.13 | wish xiii

i wish

my children

loved

me



20190508.14 | wish xiv

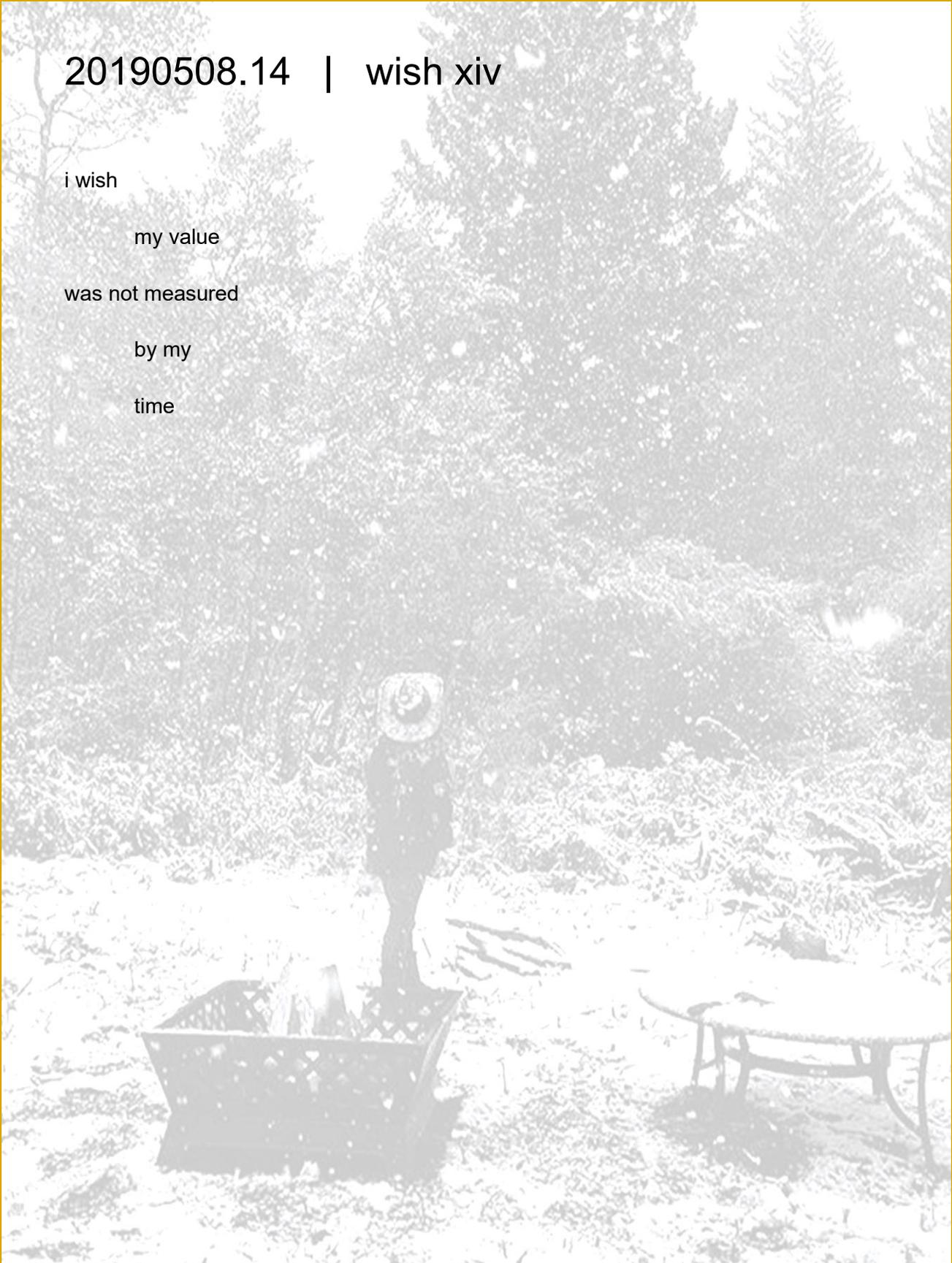
i wish

my value

was not measured

by my

time



20190508.15 | wish xv

i wish

i could solve

all her needs

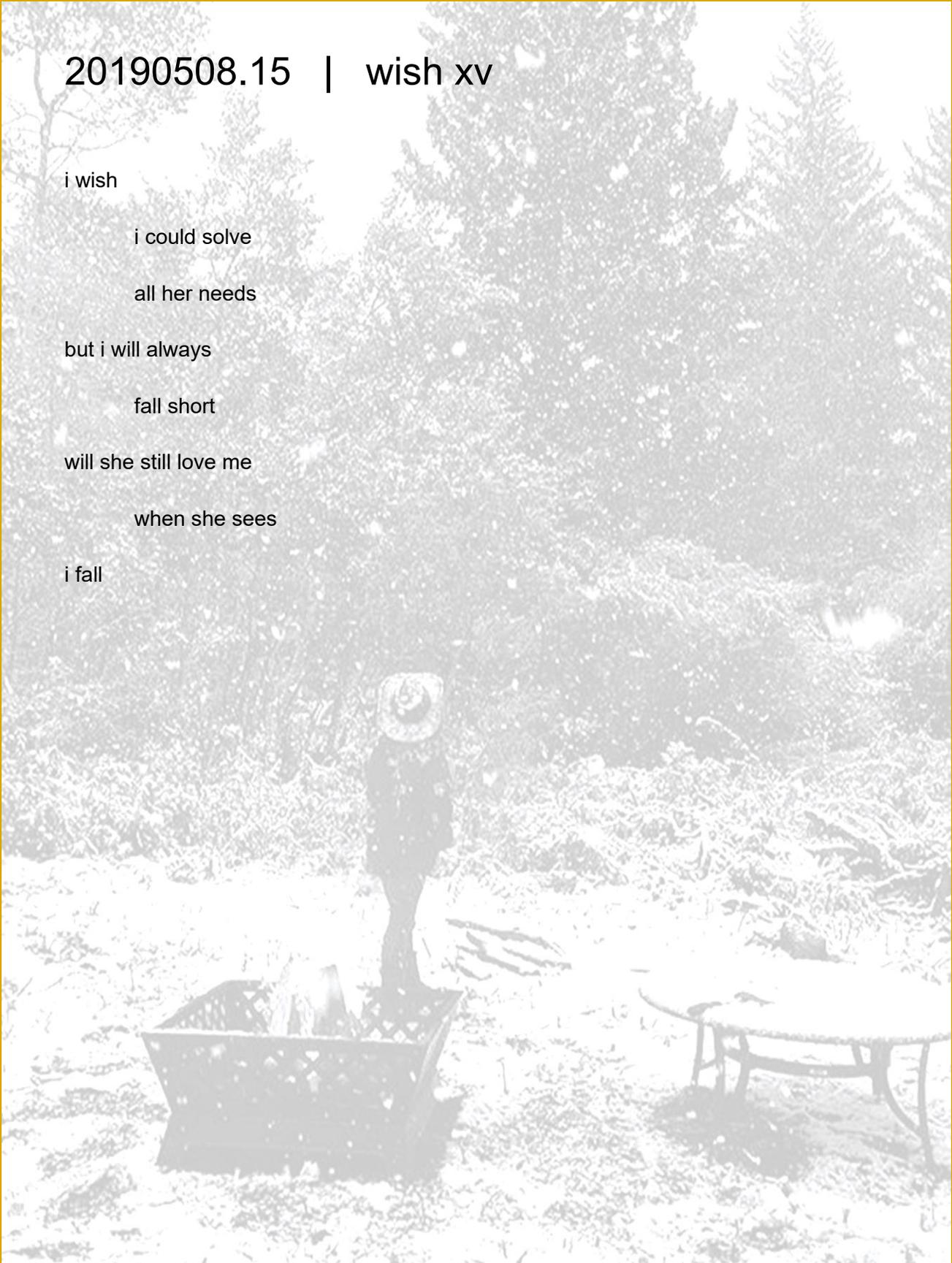
but i will always

fall short

will she still love me

when she sees

i fall

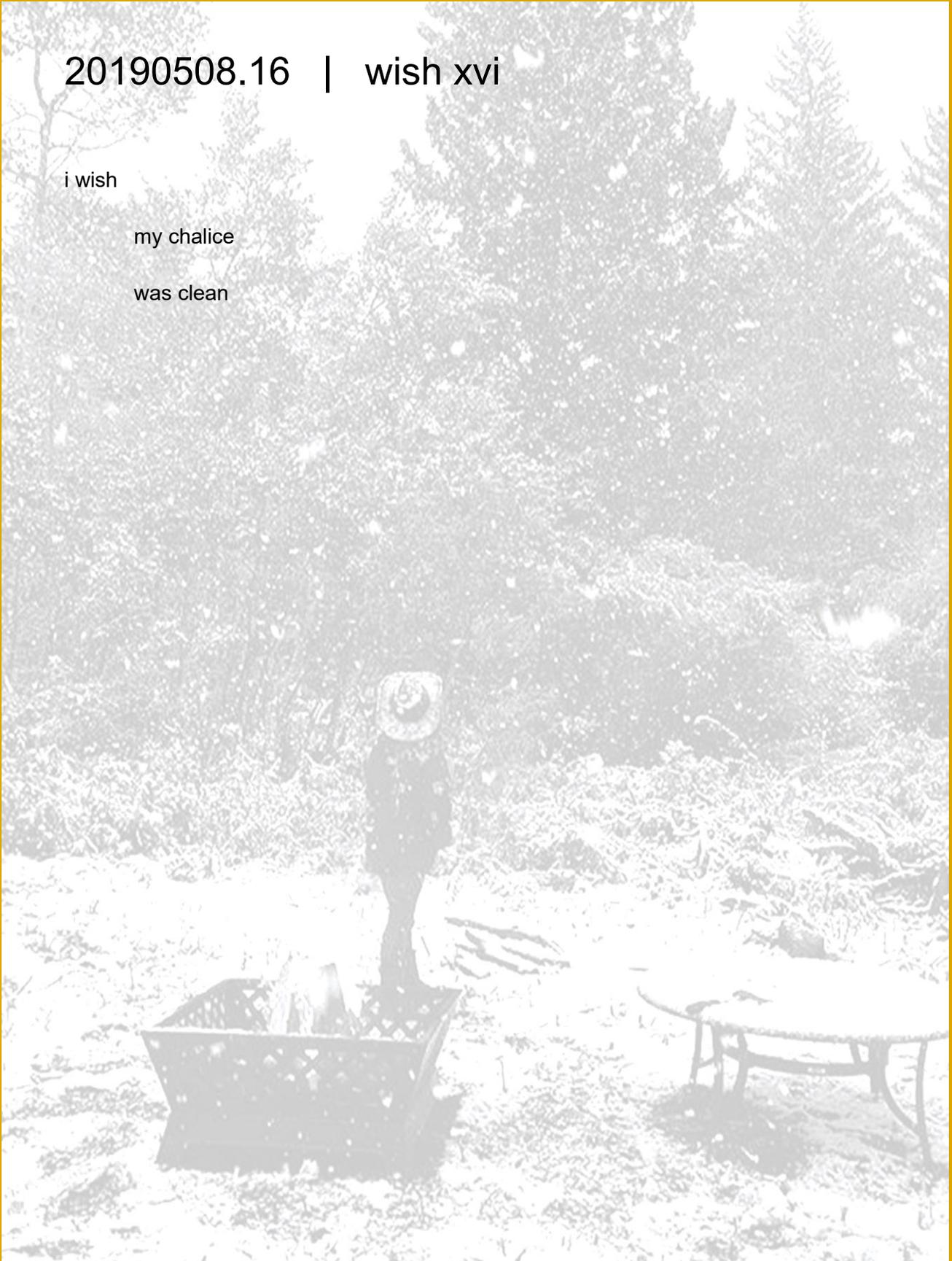


20190508.16 | wish xvi

i wish

my chalice

was clean



20190508.17 | wish xvii

i wish

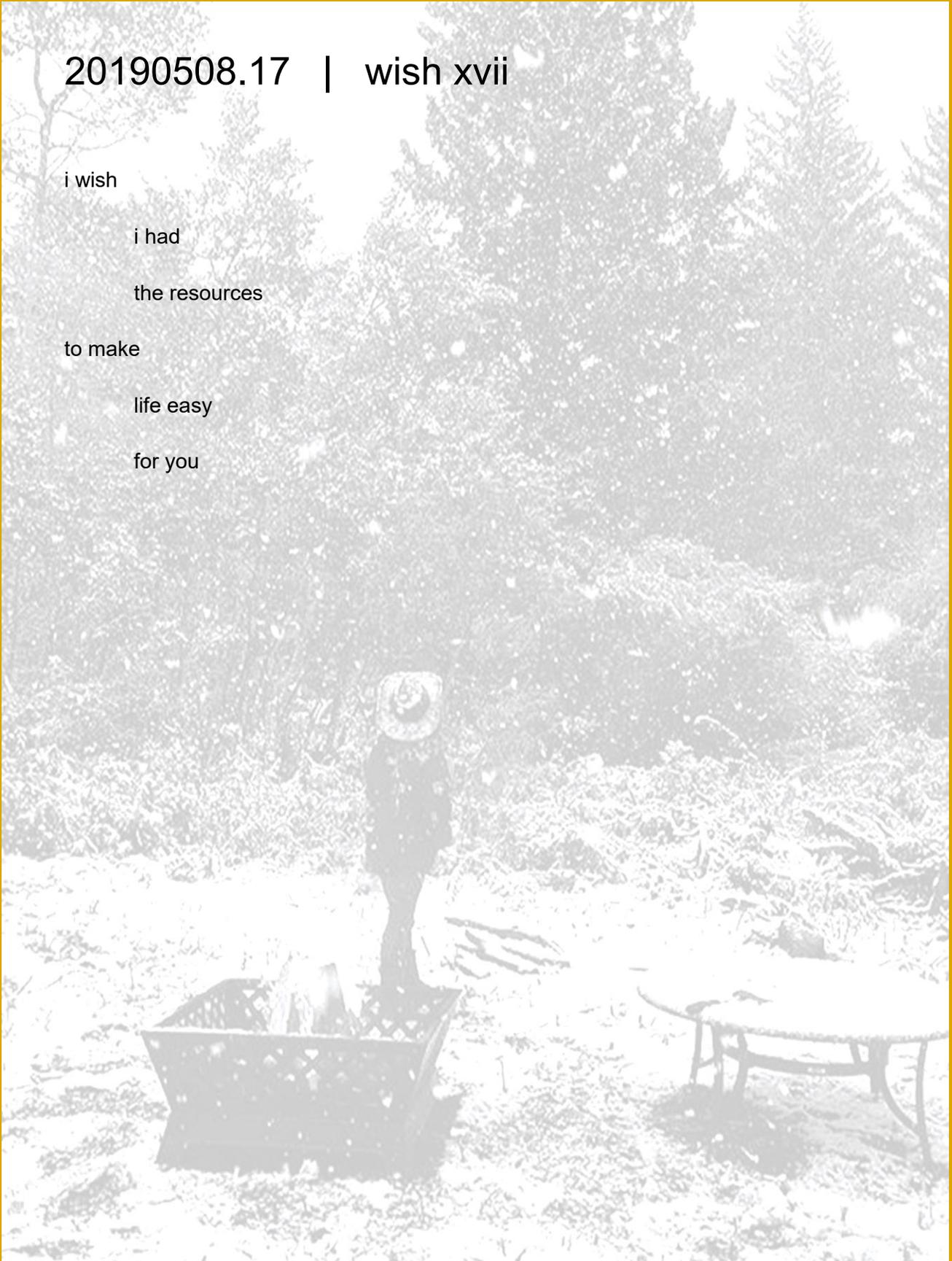
i had

the resources

to make

life easy

for you



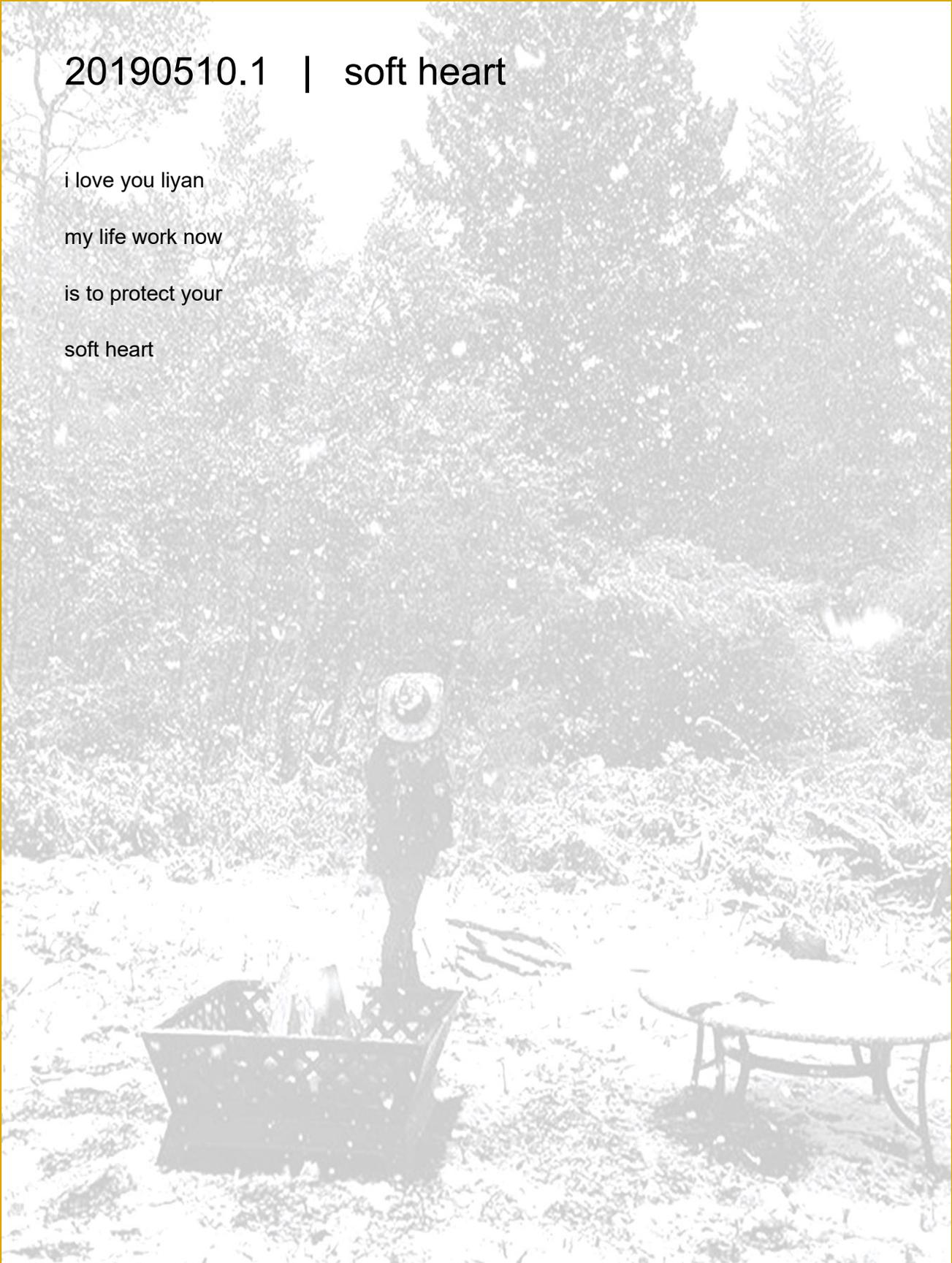
20190510.1 | soft heart

i love you liyan

my life work now

is to protect your

soft heart



20190720.1 | paper-thin

i'm broken

i'm lost

i'm in a play

i can't escape

and i've forgotten

all my lines

the other actors

whirl around me

confused by my presence

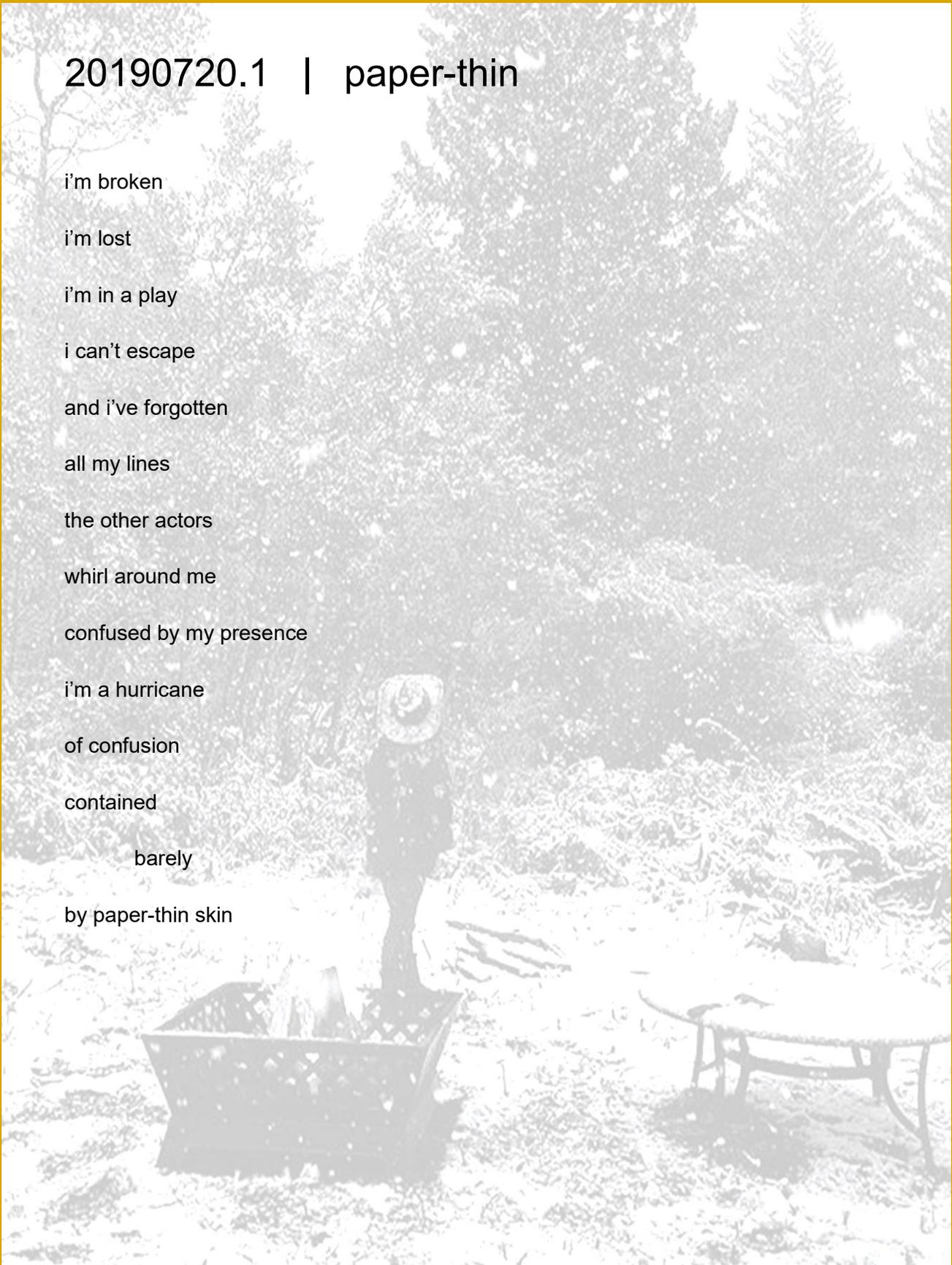
i'm a hurricane

of confusion

contained

barely

by paper-thin skin



20190720.2 | open doors

time apart

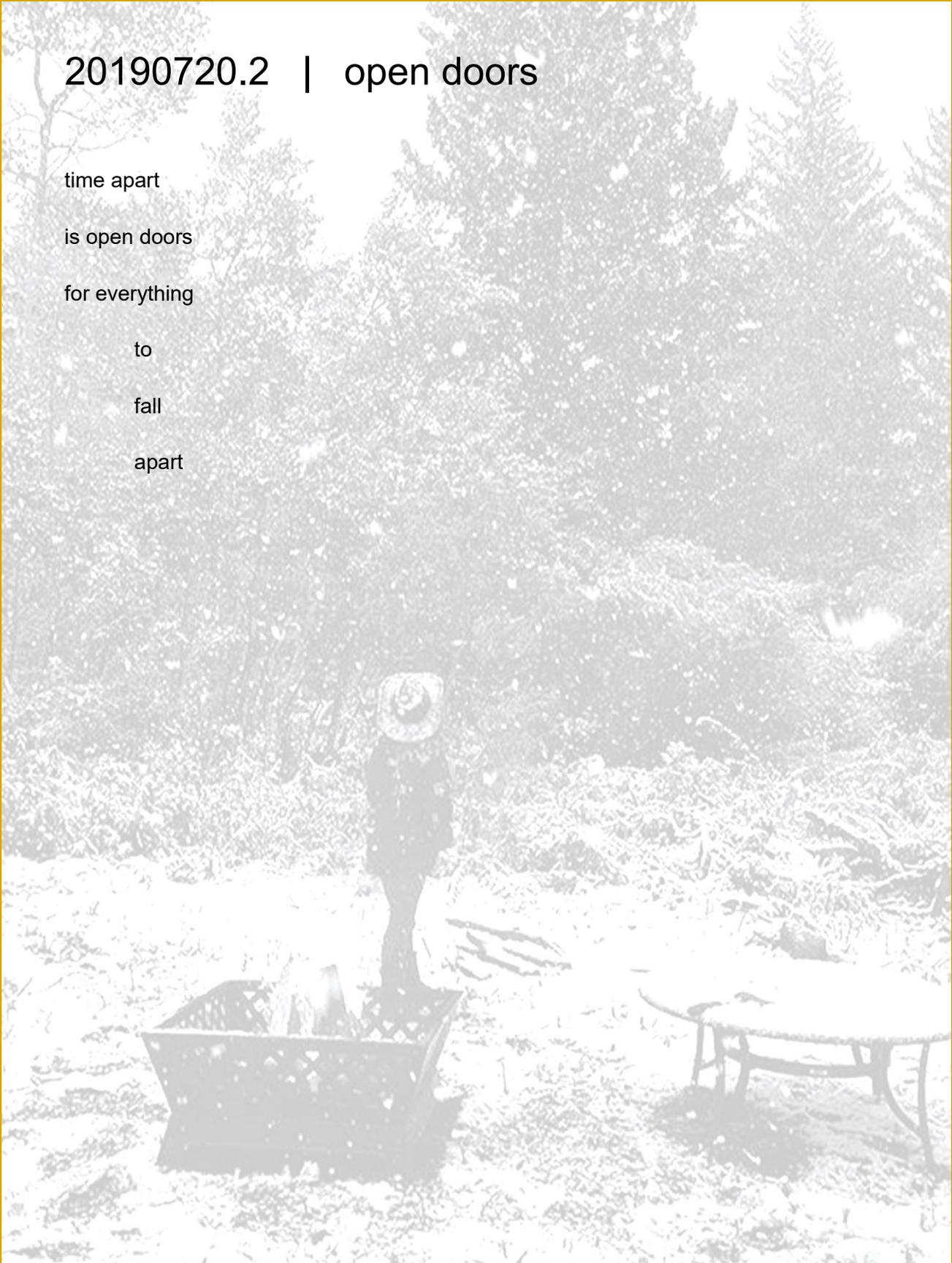
is open doors

for everything

to

fall

apart



20190720.3 | wish xviii

i wish

perfect love

was more

than just a moment

i wish

perfect love

could be

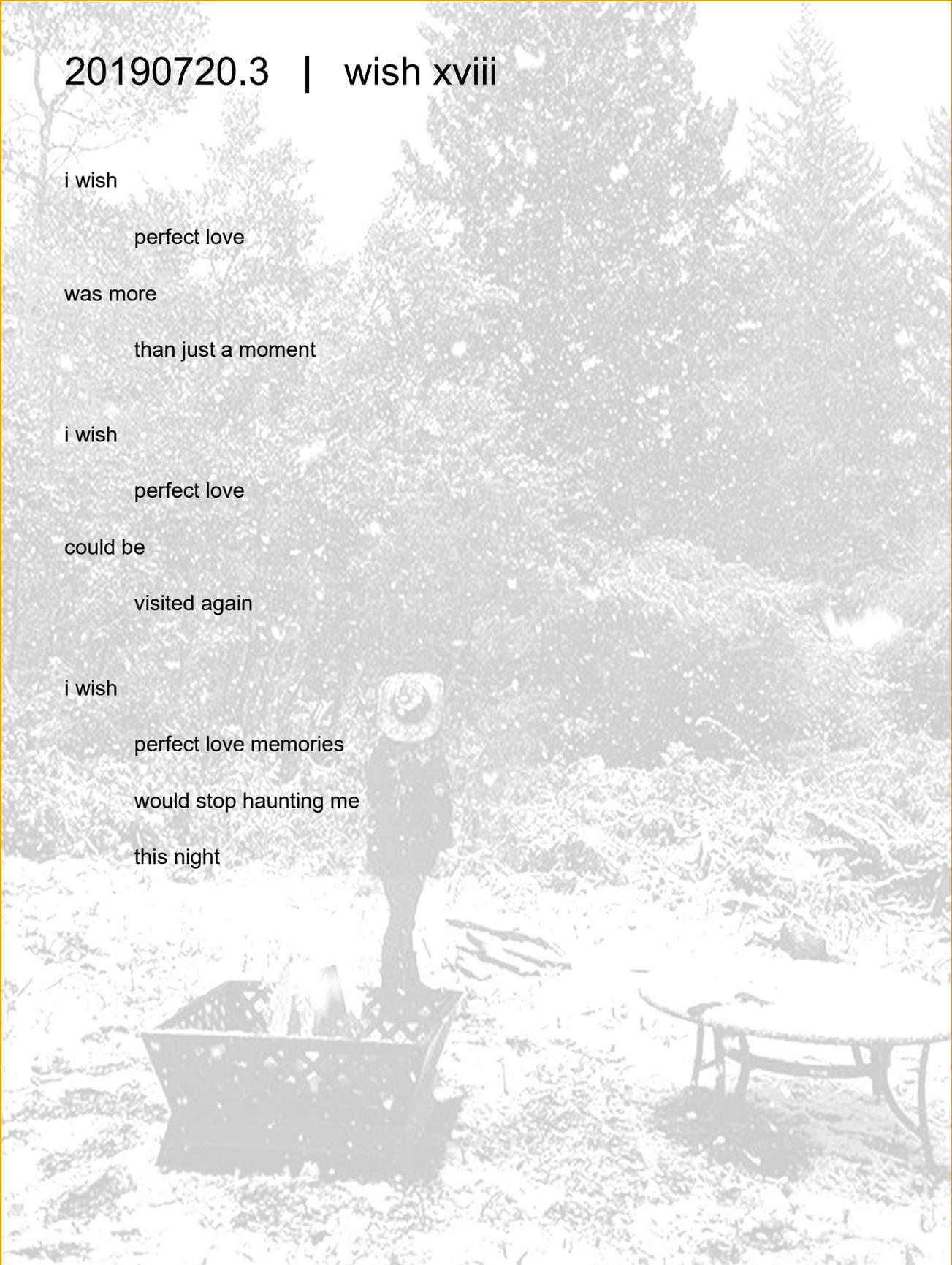
visited again

i wish

perfect love memories

would stop haunting me

this night



20190720.4 | shifting

it won't last

it will change

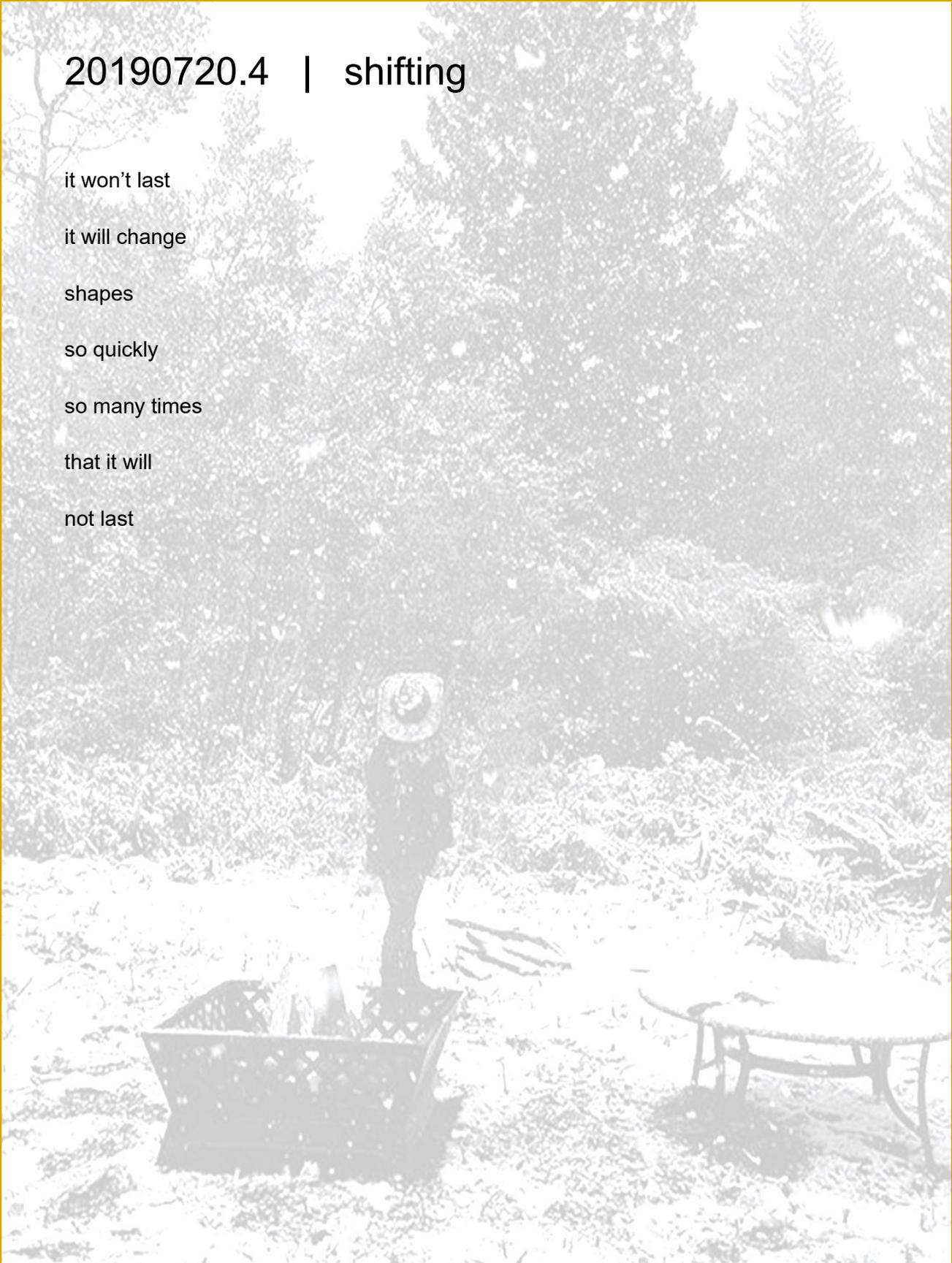
shapes

so quickly

so many times

that it will

not last



20190720.5 | my hands

my flesh

is all i've held

i carry it

from lover to lover

her embrace

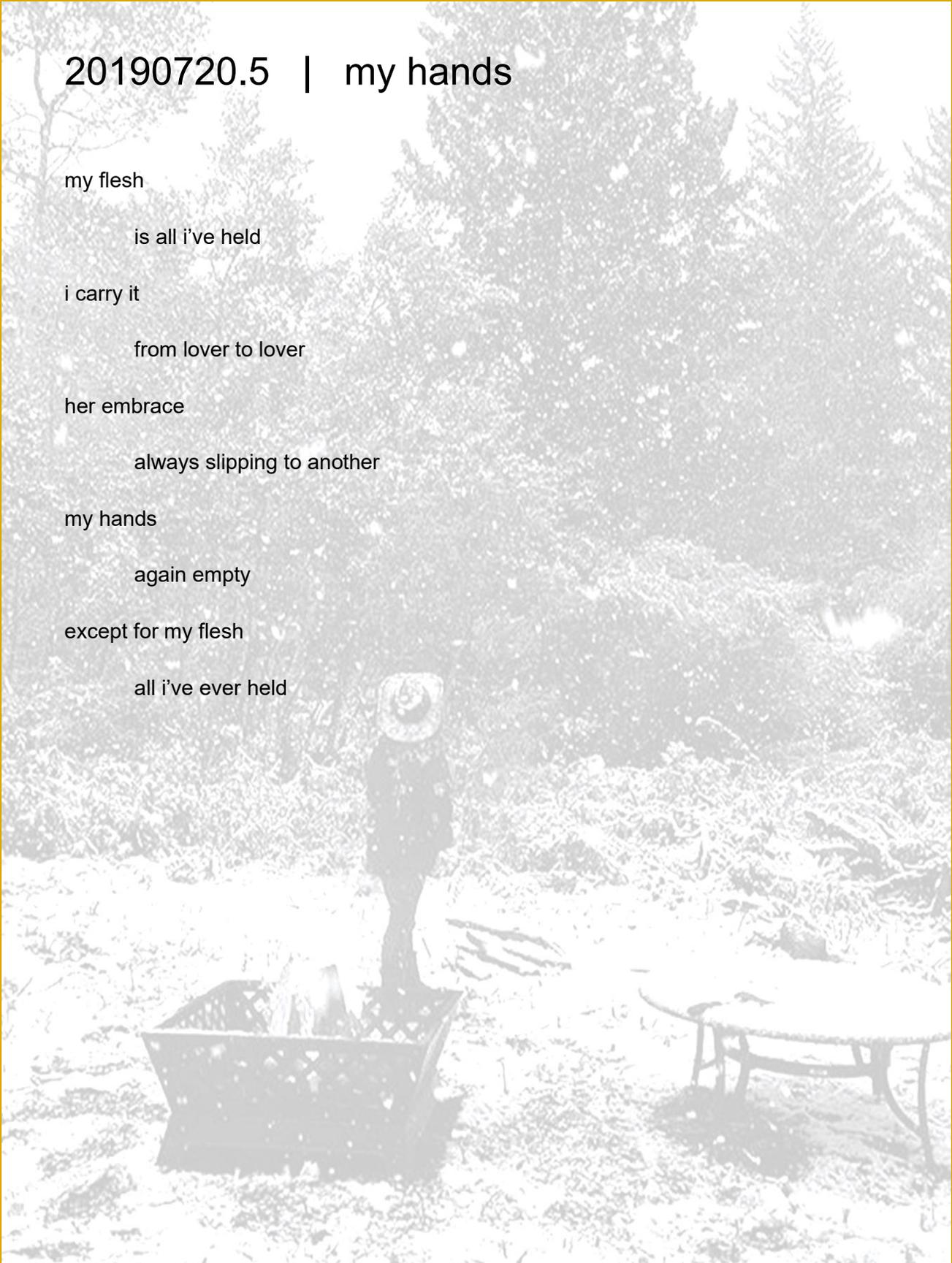
always slipping to another

my hands

again empty

except for my flesh

all i've ever held



20190720.6 | someone's music

i put music

in my ears

because my thoughts

recall the years

and i need to

escape those losses

i put other voices

in my head

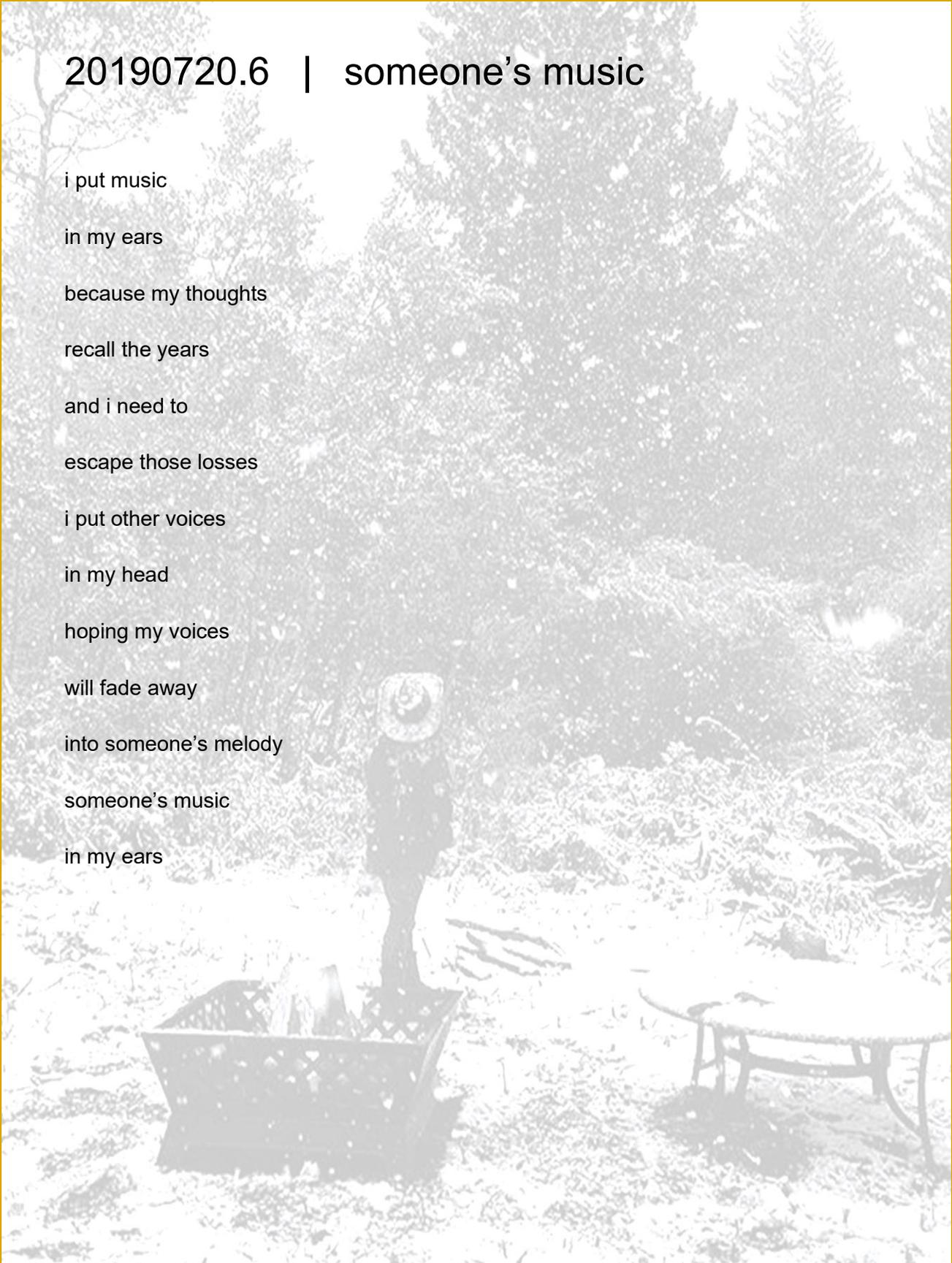
hoping my voices

will fade away

into someone's melody

someone's music

in my ears



20190720.7 | for now

for now
for now
keep the course
for now

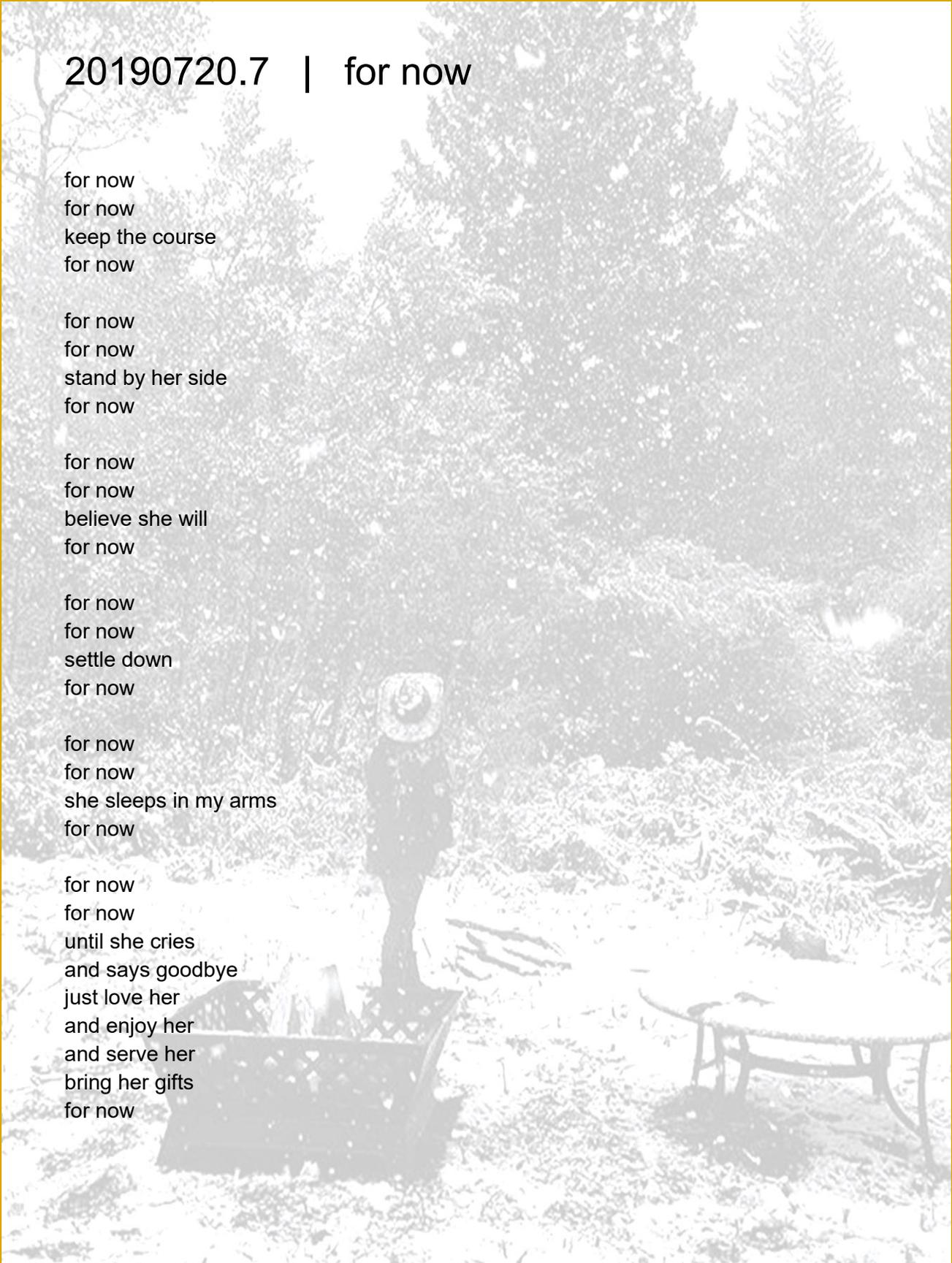
for now
for now
stand by her side
for now

for now
for now
believe she will
for now

for now
for now
settle down
for now

for now
for now
she sleeps in my arms
for now

for now
for now
until she cries
and says goodbye
just love her
and enjoy her
and serve her
bring her gifts
for now



20190720.8 | love is

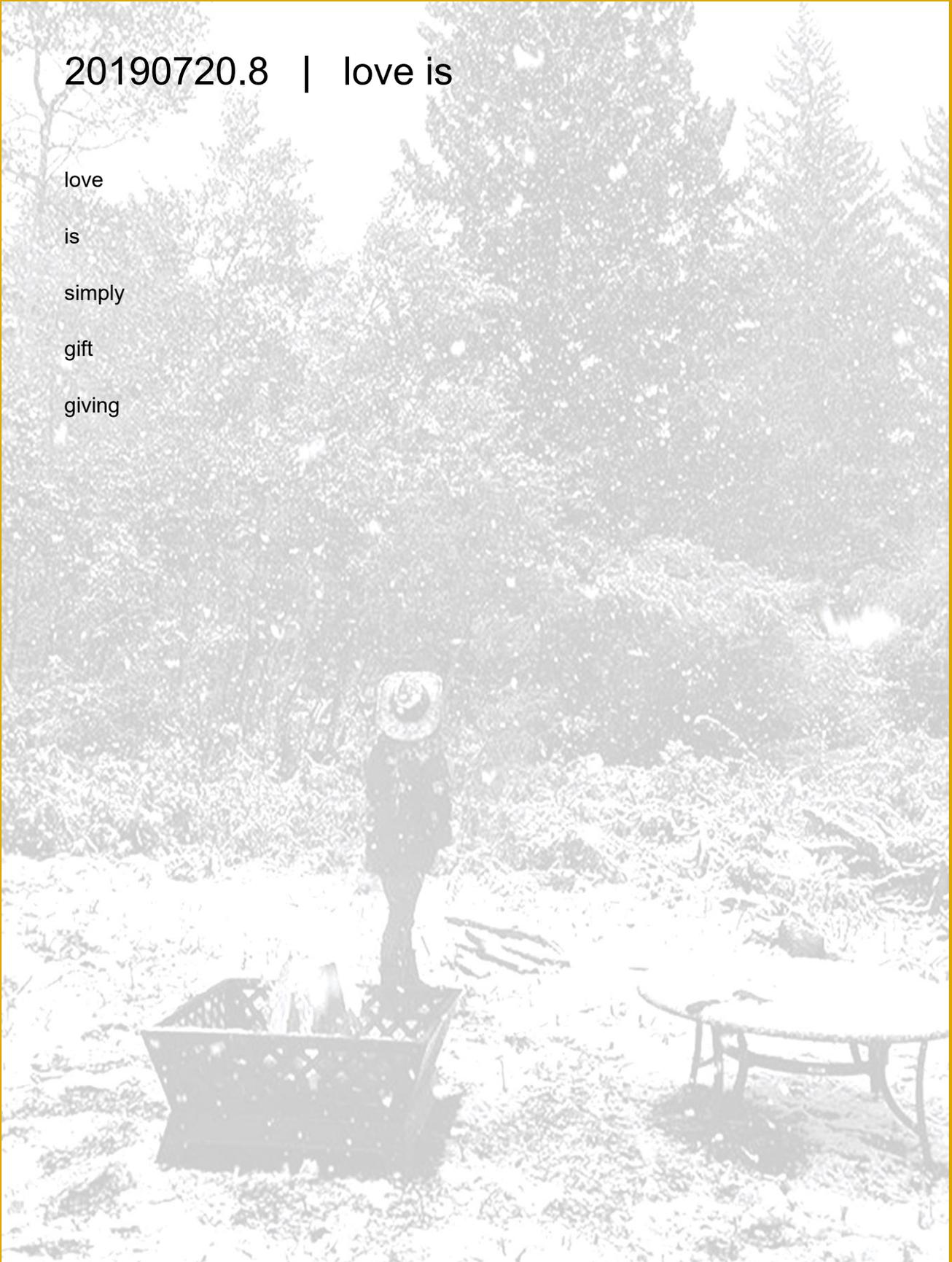
love

is

simply

gift

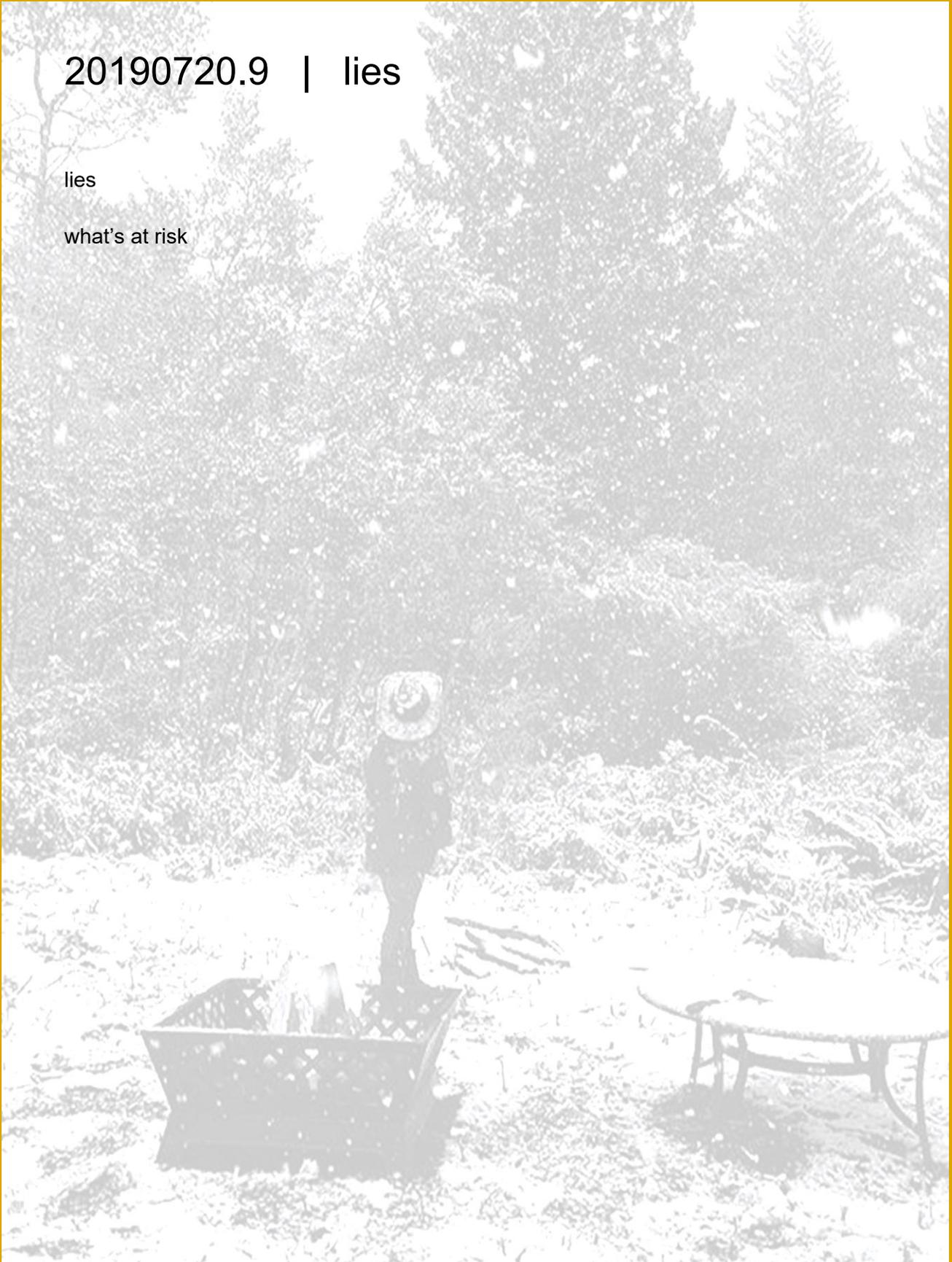
giving



20190720.9 | lies

lies

what's at risk



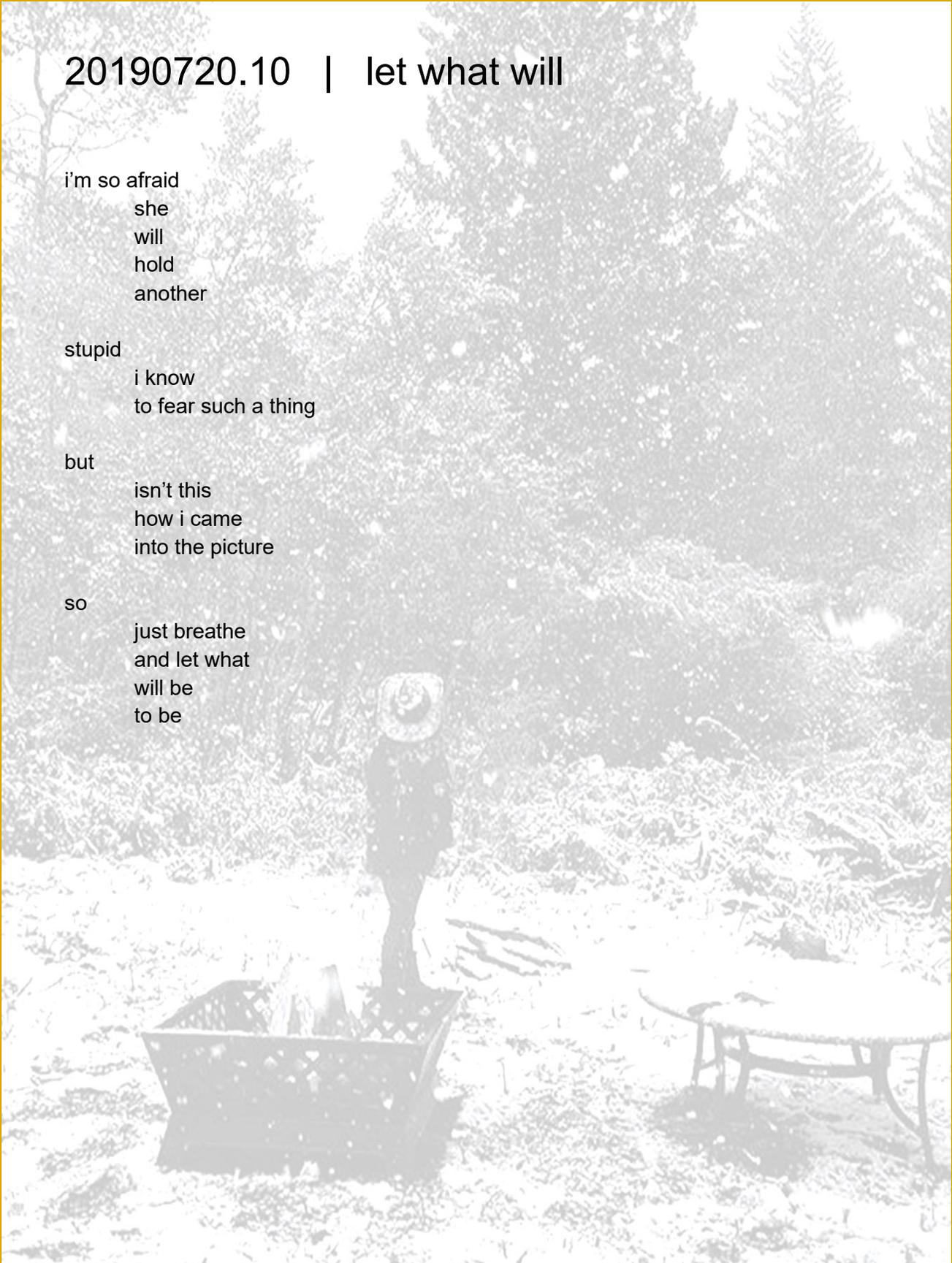
20190720.10 | let what will

i'm so afraid
she
will
hold
another

stupid
i know
to fear such a thing

but
isn't this
how i came
into the picture

so
just breathe
and let what
will be
to be



20190720.11 | two requirements

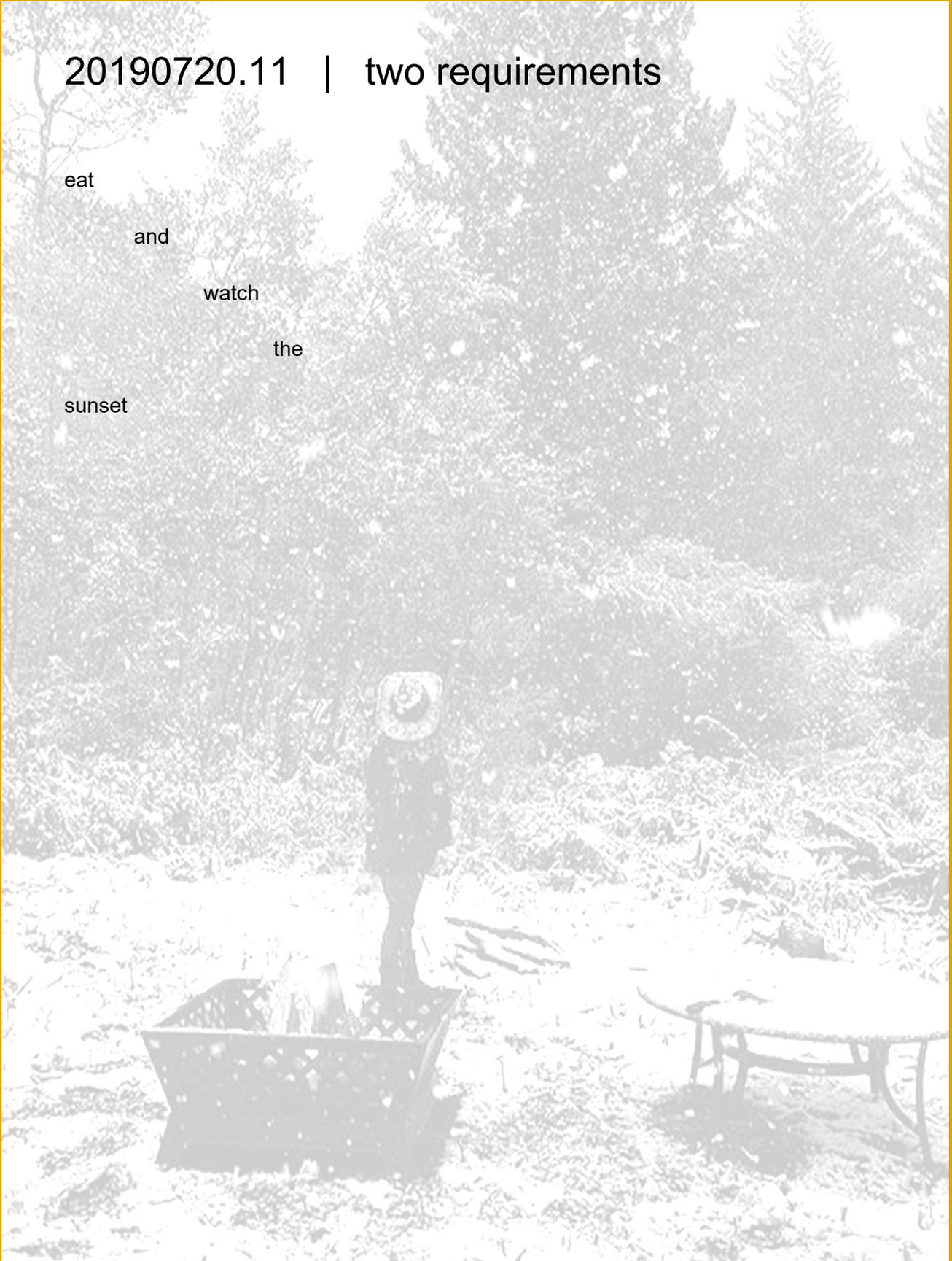
eat

and

watch

the

sunset



20190720.12 | ask a favor

god,

if i could
ask a favor

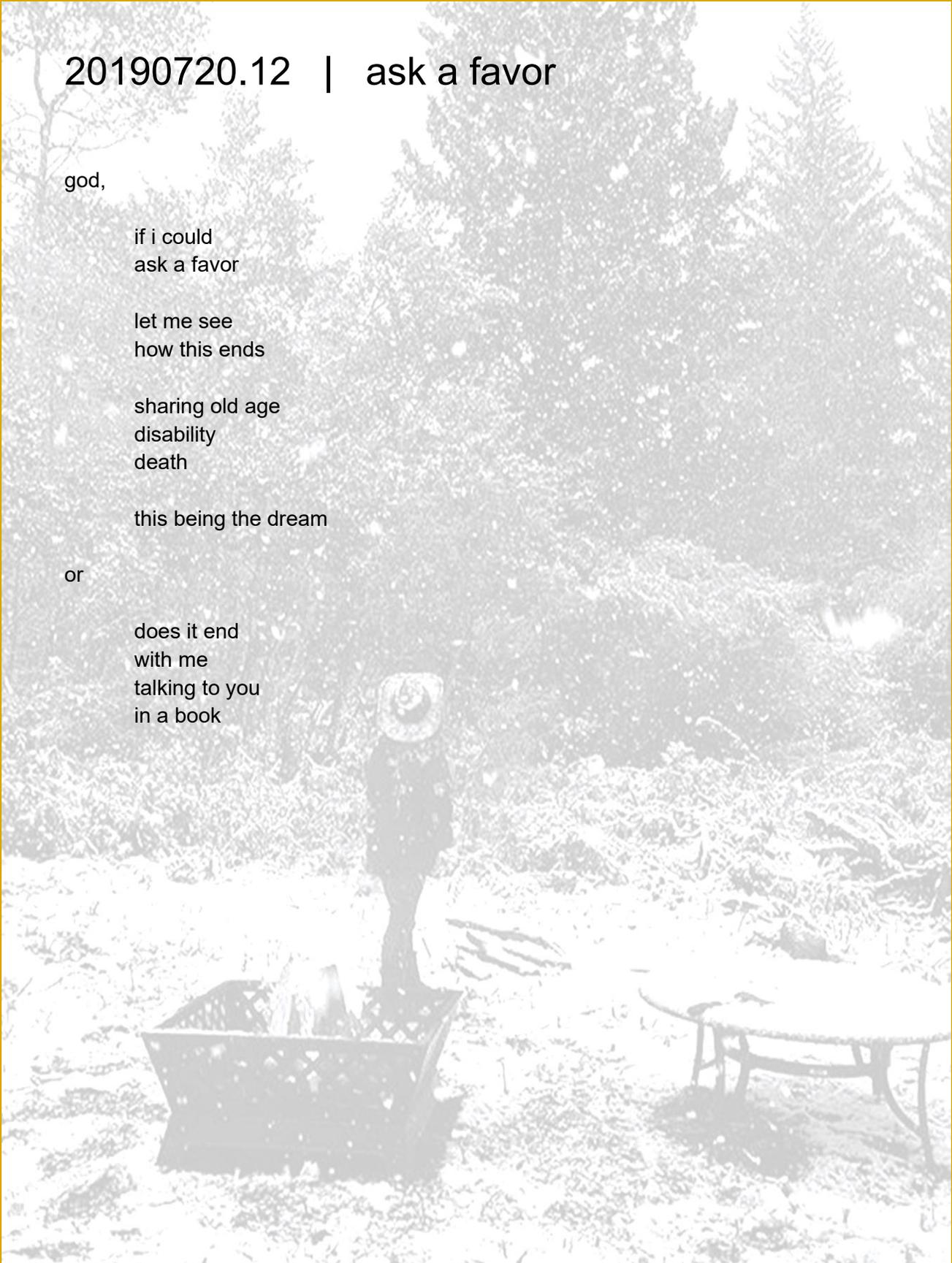
let me see
how this ends

sharing old age
disability
death

this being the dream

or

does it end
with me
talking to you
in a book



20190722.1 | unexpected

i'm not supposed to be here

no. really.

i'm not supposed to be here

90 days after almost dying

while giving birth

to my older brother

i was conceived

a tragedy

i'm not supposed to be here

i was nursed on

latex nipples

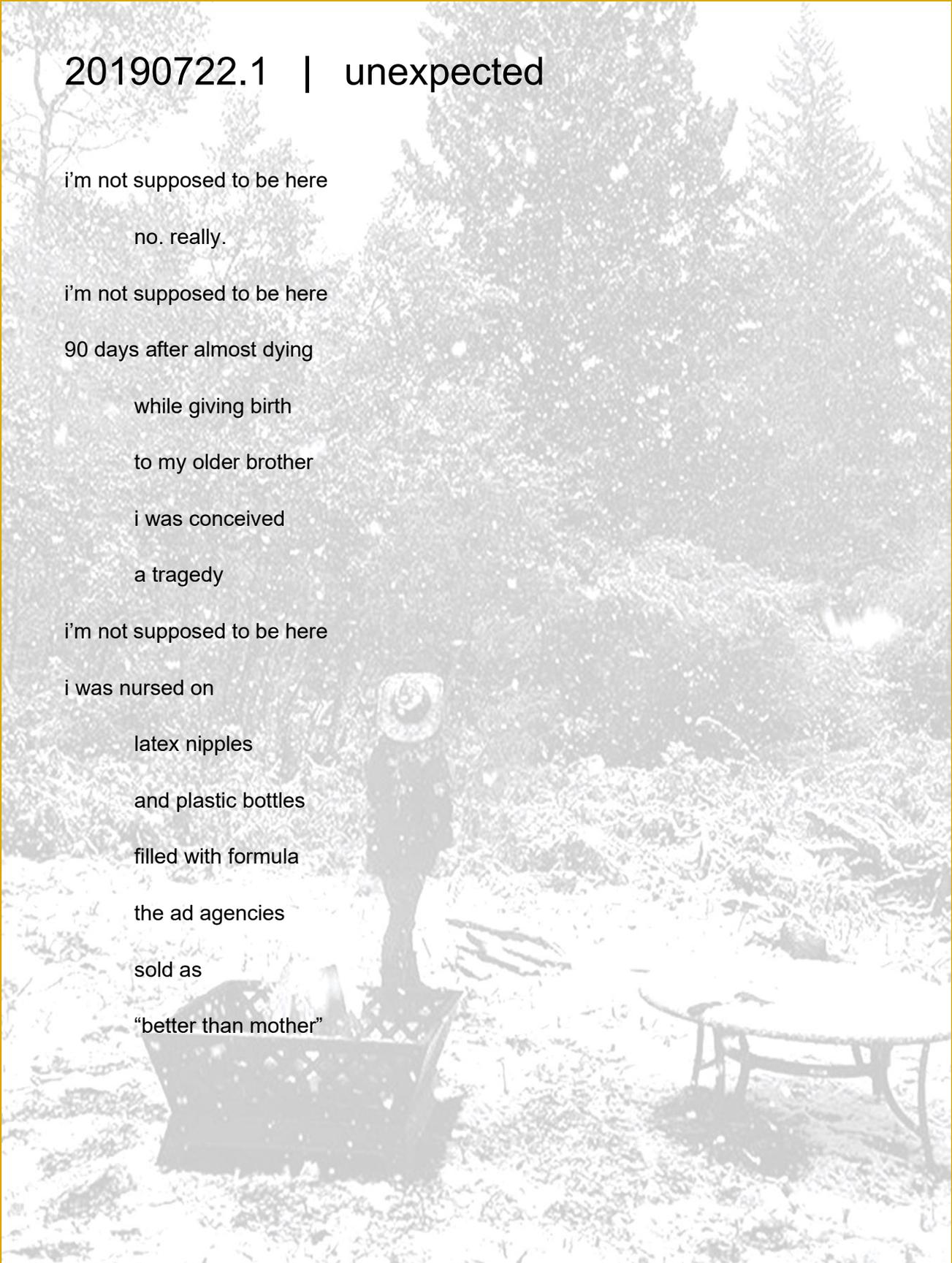
and plastic bottles

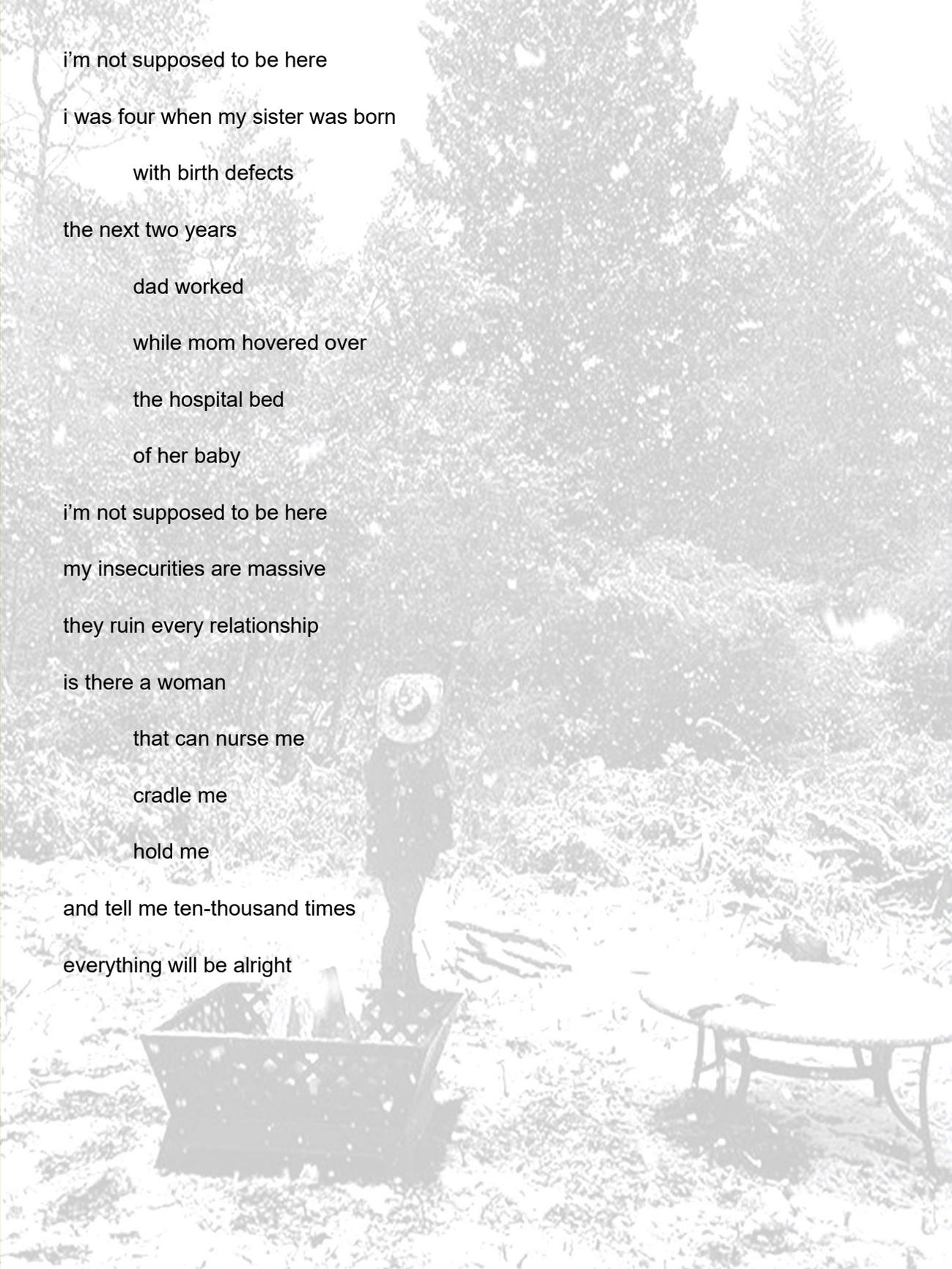
filled with formula

the ad agencies

sold as

"better than mother"





i'm not supposed to be here
i was four when my sister was born
with birth defects
the next two years
dad worked
while mom hovered over
the hospital bed
of her baby
i'm not supposed to be here
my insecurities are massive
they ruin every relationship
is there a woman
that can nurse me
cradle me
hold me
and tell me ten-thousand times
everything will be alright

is there a woman

when i say

i'm not supposed to be here

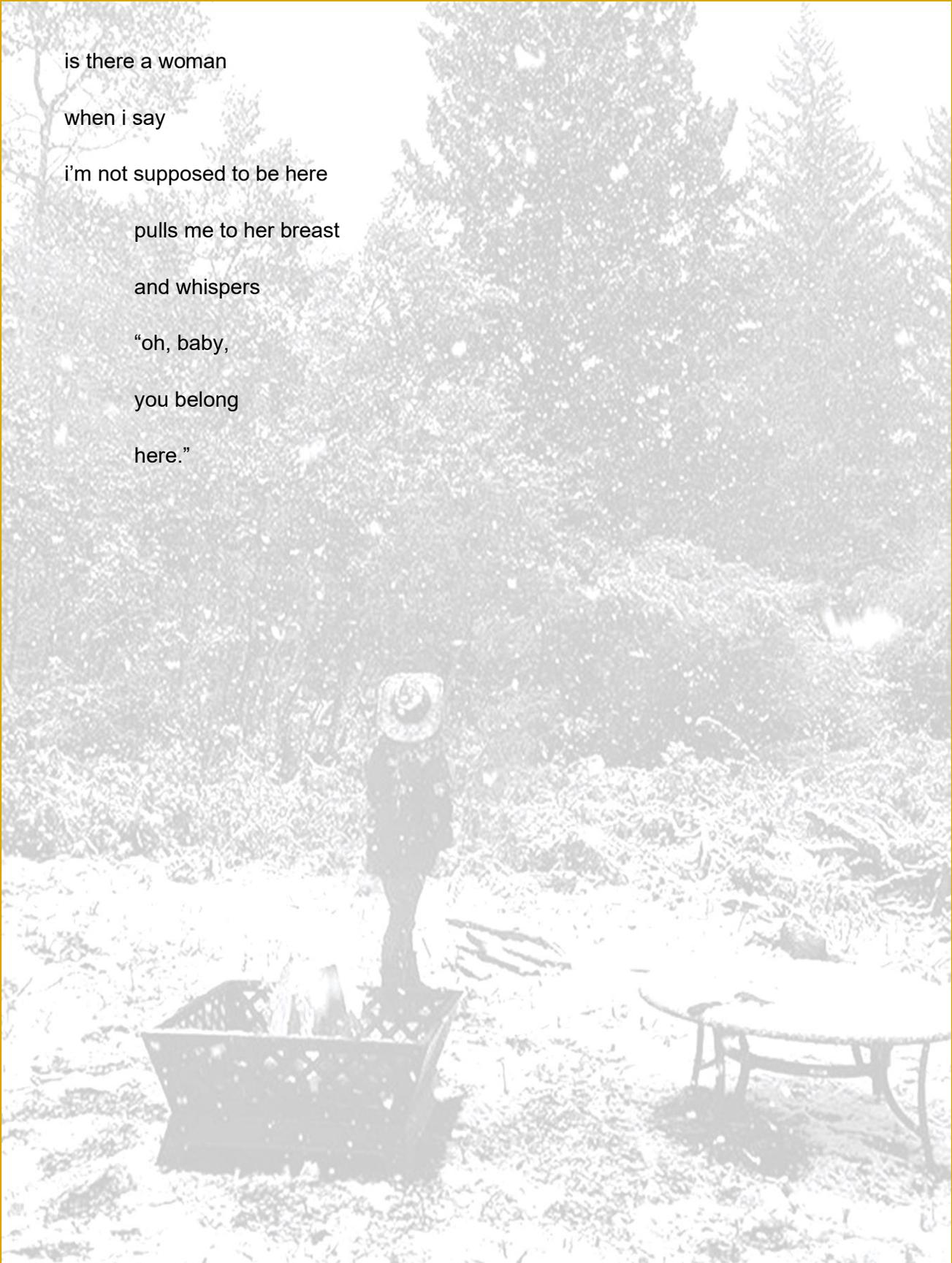
pulls me to her breast

and whispers

“oh, baby,

you belong

here.”



20190722.2 | space time

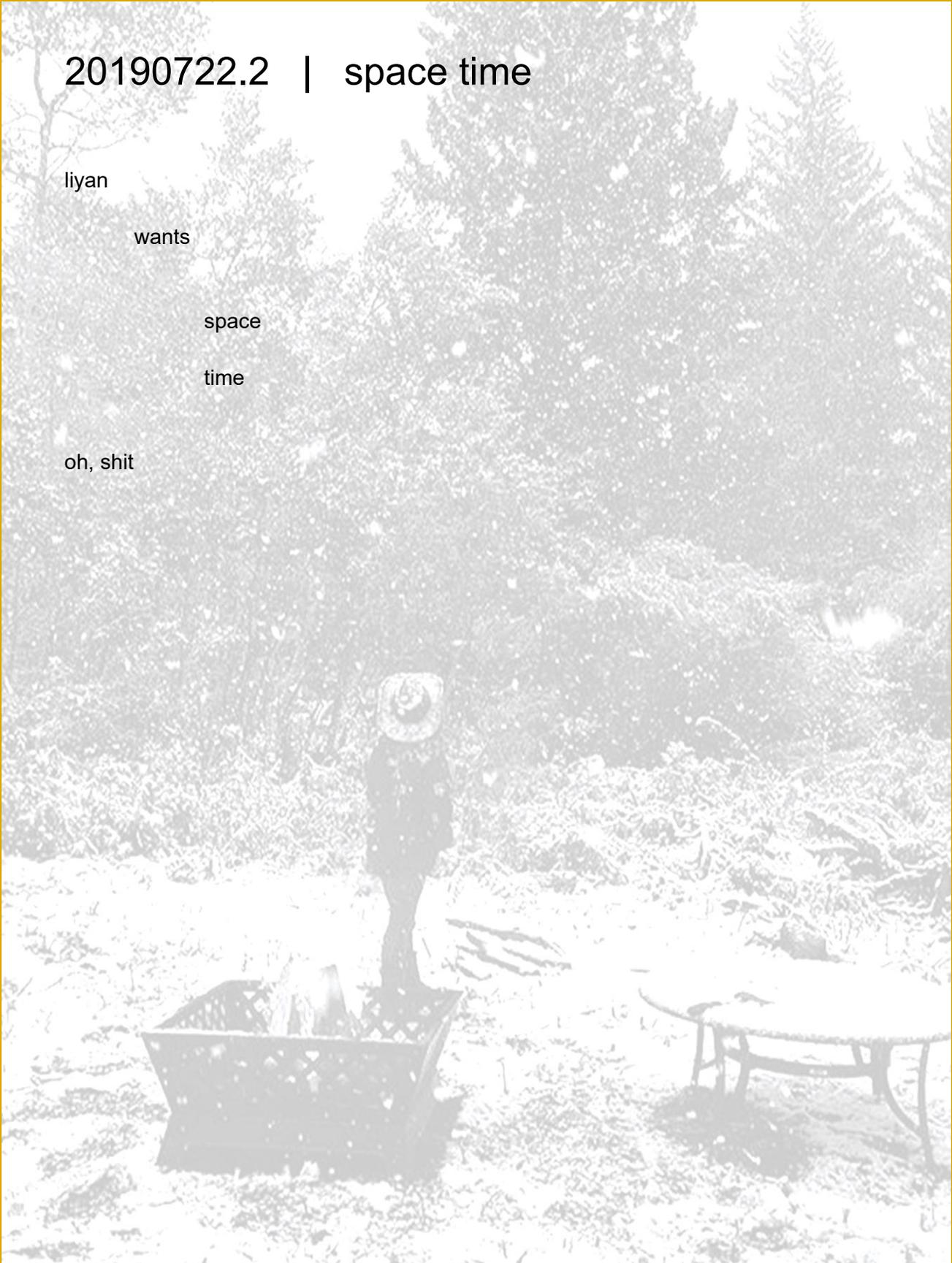
liyan

wants

space

time

oh, shit



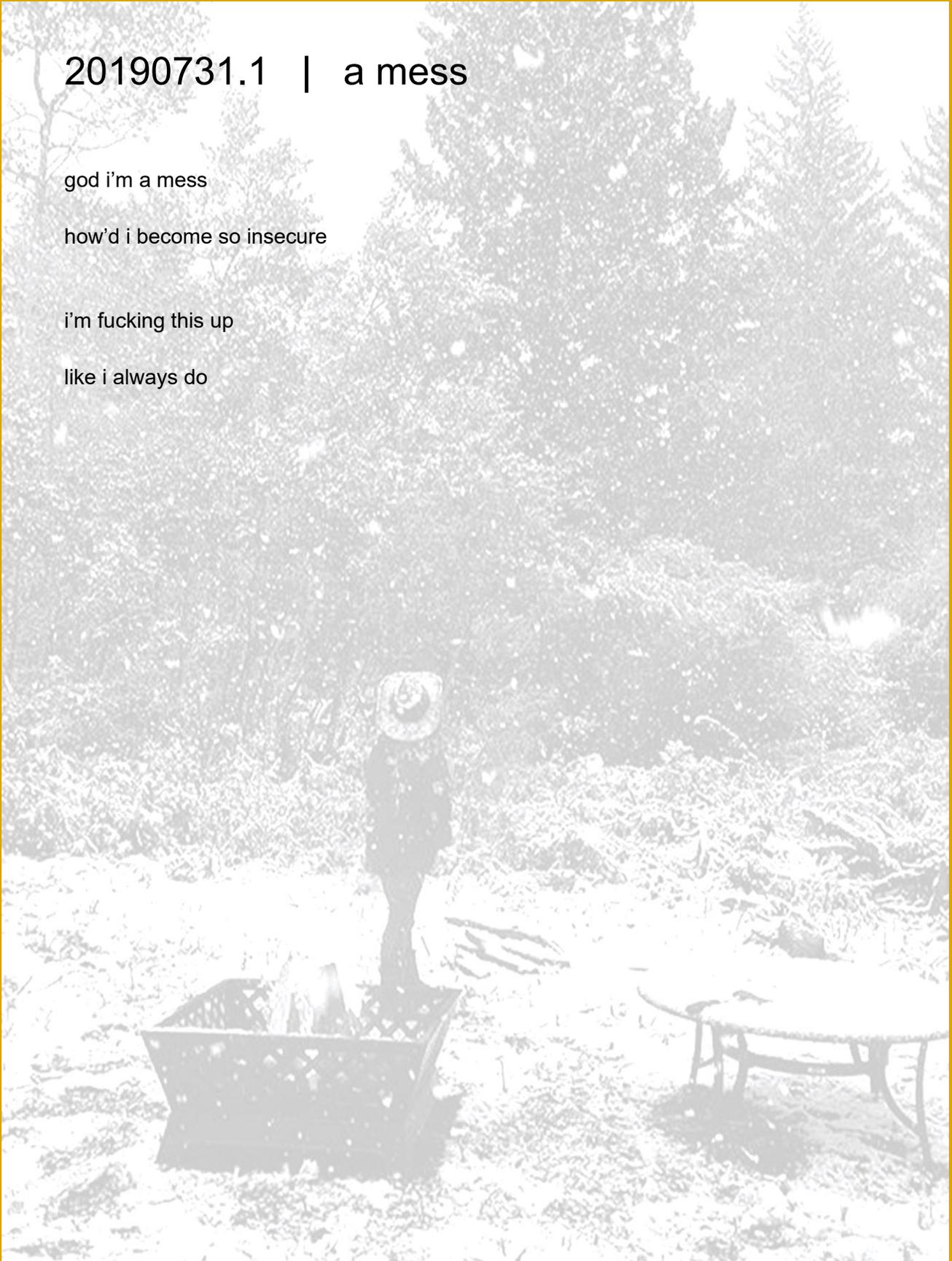
20190731.1 | a mess

god i'm a mess

how'd i become so insecure

i'm fucking this up

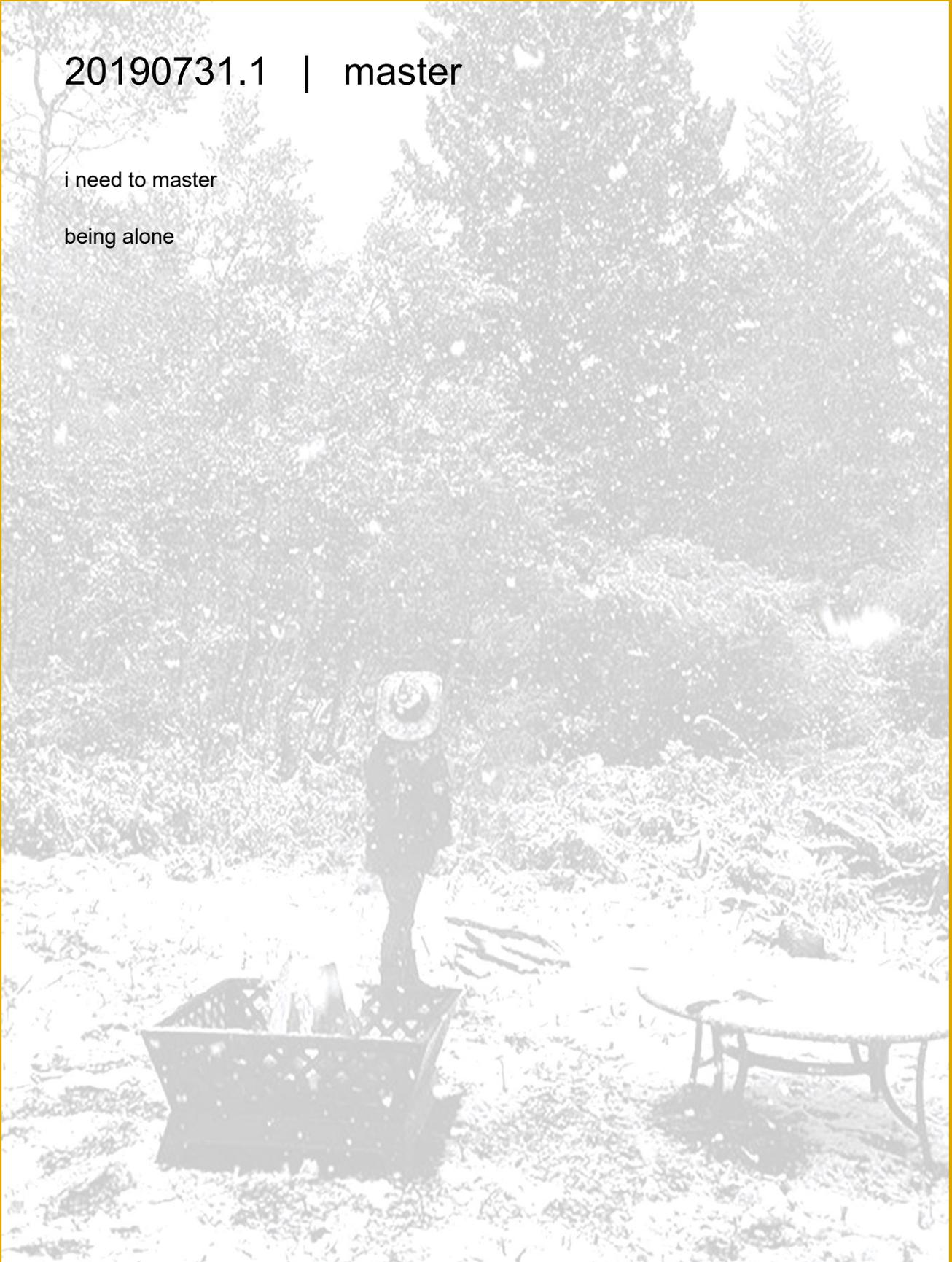
like i always do



20190731.1 | master

i need to master

being alone



20190808.1 | it's about trust

it's about trust

about believing

that other person

will choose not to do

the things that will

break you

trusting that other person

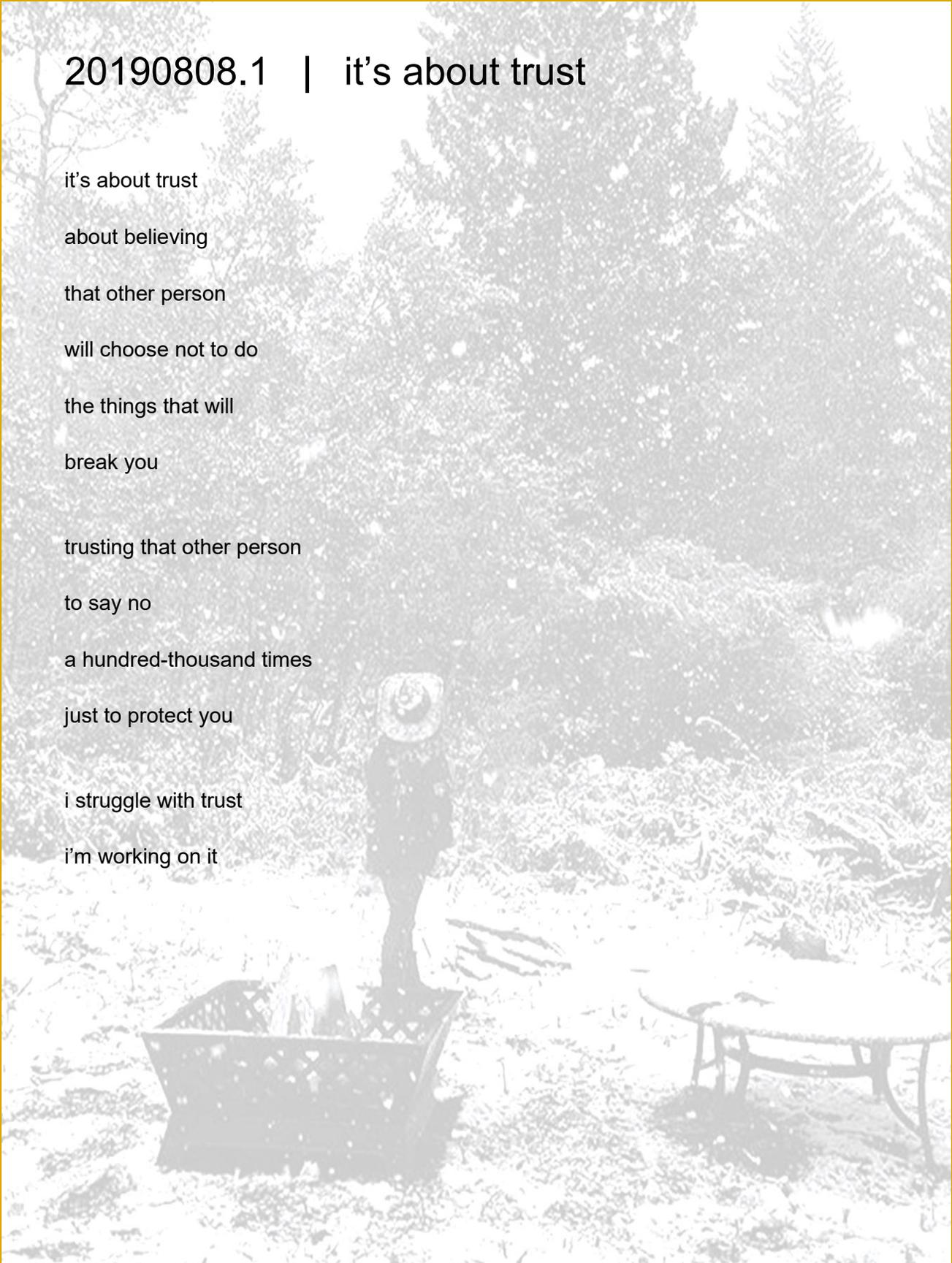
to say no

a hundred-thousand times

just to protect you

i struggle with trust

i'm working on it



20190808.2 | trust is naïve

trust is naïve

absolutely

it is foolish to believe

but

in that belief

in that trust

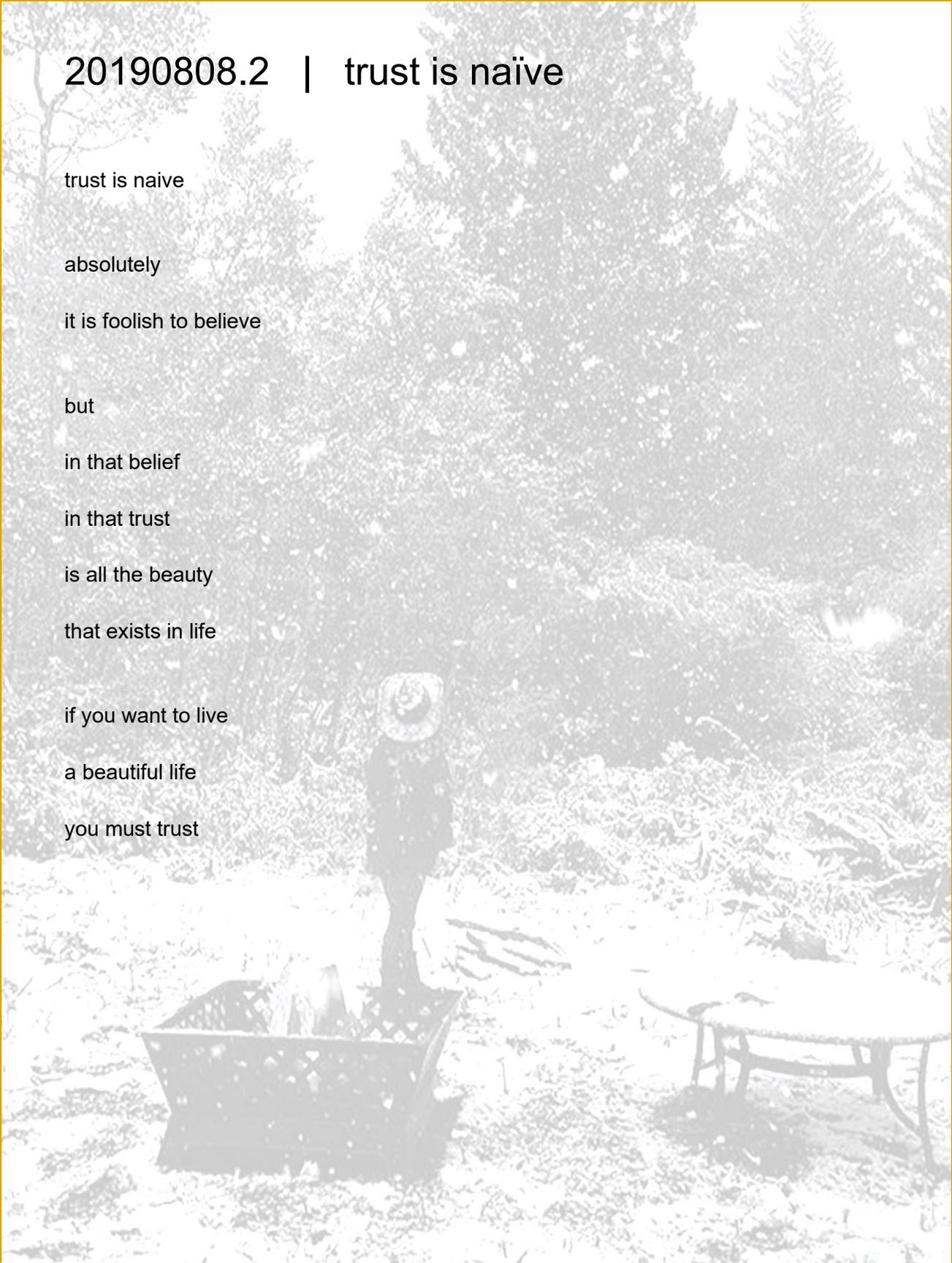
is all the beauty

that exists in life

if you want to live

a beautiful life

you must trust



20190817.1 | the pattern we love

all stages of grief

end in acceptance

life is absolutely

a kaleidoscope

a constantly changing

pattern

but sometimes

a pattern comes into view

that is so beautiful

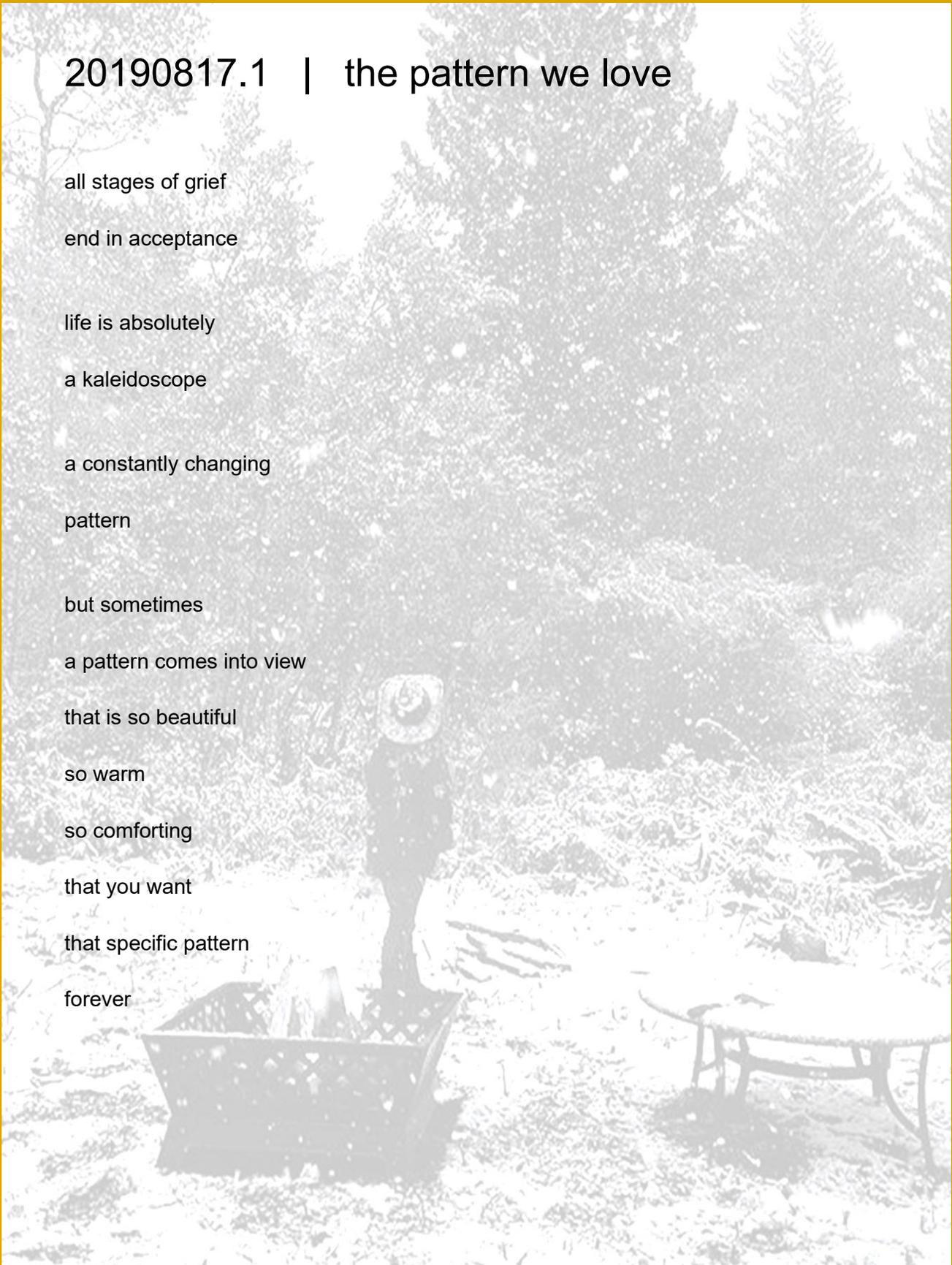
so warm

so comforting

that you want

that specific pattern

forever



it does not work

that way

the view we love

the pattern we hold

changes

and our heart breaks

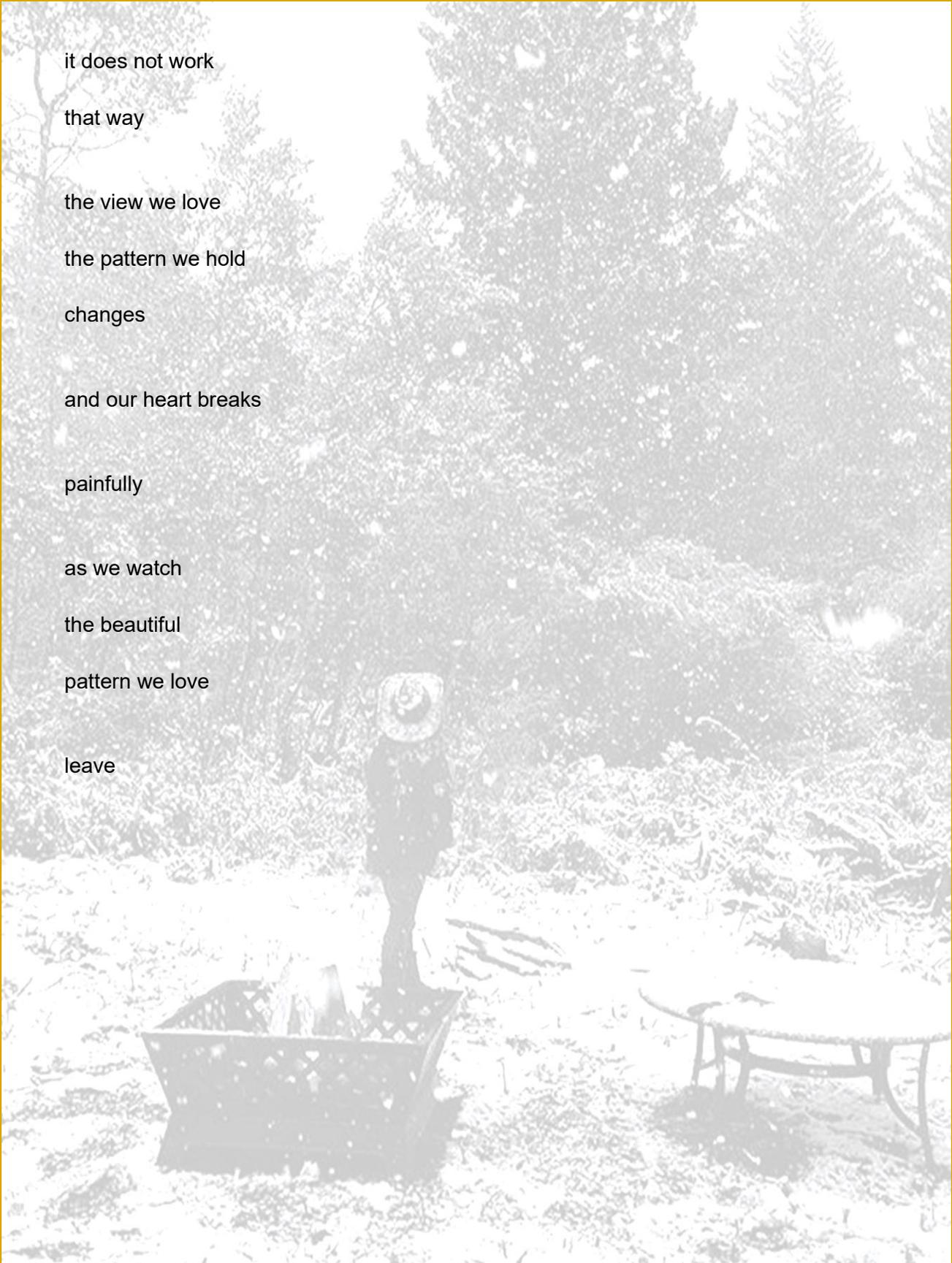
painfully

as we watch

the beautiful

pattern we love

leave



end

A Human Life

a book of poems

by
pc keefer

book one
end

