

You are held in a que (2018)

Text for an unrealised performance

411 Words

My needs were assessed and I was assigned phone triage appointments. Once a week, I would speak to a specialist piece of AI software that was programmed with upto 500,000 supportive responses, a synthetic empathetic voice that was patient with my inconsistency and my nonsensical sadness

Let's talk this through, what's on your mind?

These sessions are a conflicting interplay between my problems and their solutions. Discussing anxieties that stem in part from a feeling of inescapability from networked living.... creating a jarring discomfort for me and a software update for said AI

Press one if you are seeking help

Press one to speak to a specialist

Press one if you are fading into the scenery

Press one because your health service has been automated

Press one if you are caught in the repeating patterns of your past

Press one, press one, press one

I think of this discomfort similarly to the experience of my future/yet to be, dislocated hip. Bone grinding against itself like two pieces of chalk under the inevitable motion, as I limp towards the door, as I hobble towards my ambition, as I crawl towards uncertainty. The bone splinters from the unrelenting oscillation, then shatters, into a dust, a fine powder. And then there's the pain

I can sense that makes you uncomfortable, please elaborate

The ice cold repose of this non existent confidant cools your anxieties like a bag of frozen peas placed onto sunburnt skin, a temporary remedy, the long term damage waits beneath the surface

You are held in a que

You are made to wait

You are made to wait just long enough for the hospitals to be closed, for the surgeries to be privatized, for the healthcare professionals to be deported

Focus on the things that make you feel positive. What you are experiencing is completely normal

The ever increasing waiting times feed into a wider ideological narrative

Make them wait in pain, make them wait with chronic illness, make them wait and be constantly confronted with uncertainty

You are person number 65,784 in the que

While you wait you sink into a bath of tepid water. Immersing your body in volumes of liquid occurs more regularly now. It appears you have acquired a disposition for simulating embryonic environments...and existing there

Make them wait to let them know their place in society

Make them wait because not waiting is a luxury

Make them wait and let them die.