## SWANS LAKELESS Transcript April 23, 2021

Text by Shannon Lumpkin
Adapted for Swans Lakeless at Roulette

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00:00:27,600 --> 00:00:30,600 [pulsing drone]

00:00:30,600 --> 00:00:35,760 We live in a state of precarity because we live disabled in a capitalist society.

00:00:39,360 --> 00:00:45,880 We live on a fixed income that often cannot afford the rent and there's a deadly disconnect,

00:00:45,880 --> 00:00:48,880 and we're left to be homeless

00:00:50,800 --> 00:00:58,360
The cops, they exist to protect you from us once we are there and some of them know it.

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:06,280 We're excluded from a right to live peacefully while healing, even when that healing is chronic

00:01:07,520 --> 00:01:13,560 and because the American job market moves at speeds where the colors blur all alongside one another

00:01:13,760 --> 00:01:19,640 like sound waves bopping and weaving, like Jack Black, avoiding the landing

00:01:19,640 --> 00:01:22,920 of a physical face to fist confrontation. [sound of subway train overhead]

00:01:22,920 --> 00:01:30,280 In capitalism, I haven't found

a way, not since losing my leg,

00:01:30,280 --> 00:01:40,520 to jump — [underlying drone of traffic] to fight and tussle, to compete, to earn, to win.

00:01:42,400 --> 00:01:51,320 Everyone asks. While I ponder, a punch lands. It's the Social Security Office, the institution

00:01:52,600 --> 00:01:56,520 responsible for holding up people like me, affected by major medical traumas at some point

00:01:56,720 --> 00:01:59,320 between birth and life. [traffic merges with pulsing drone]

00:02:01,880 --> 00:02:05,680 Humans on a path of chronic healing. [traffic noise, engine phase change]

00:02:05,680 --> 00:02:08,680 We're some of the people who can see the structure.

00:02:10,880 --> 00:02:16,960 And we're bonded to the labor market, in that we are not there.

00:02:16,960 --> 00:02:20,400 [traffic increases] [bird trills] [distant sound of people]

00:02:23,320 --> 00:02:26,320 Six of Cups is what it is really about.

00:02:31,480 --> 00:02:37,520 [birds increase] [muffled voices] [engines rev at a distance]

00:02:41,920 --> 00:02:49,040 [sound of the city swells]

00:02:54,160 --> 00:03:03,080

[overhead train rumbles] [metal gate whines, feet shuffle]

00:03:08,800 --> 00:03:15,360 [pulsing drone returns]

00:03:20,560 --> 00:03:24,600 [pulse slows, raising in pitch]

00:03:27,880 --> 00:03:30,880 [all sound recedes]

00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:44,680 [long breaths fade in]

00:03:44,800 --> 00:03:47,800 [twinkling synth begins]

00:03:49,480 --> 00:03:53,920 [synths twinkle and undulate]

00:03:53,960 --> 00:04:01,400 [breath returns]

00:04:04,280 --> 00:04:25,680 [synth and breath intertwine] [volume increases]

00:04:37,120 --> 00:04:45,320 [high frequency feedback]

00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:55,360 [sounds of breath, synth and feedback intertwine]

00:05:16,400 --> 00:05:41,400 [upbeat rhythmic music enters suddenly]

00:05:58,280 --> 00:06:10,920 [synth melody returns and rhythm slows]

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:24,640 Narrator: A performer enters and the small crowd gathers and follows like wolf puppies. 00:06:25,400 --> 00:06:32,280 Safe home, expressing it, here. Busy, focused, calm, and grounded.

00:06:32,280 --> 00:06:39,800

♪ Safe home, expressing it ♪
♪ here, busy, calm, focused and grounded ♪

00:06:40,240 --> 00:06:47,360

♪ Safe home, expressing it ♪
♪ here, busy, focused, calm, and grounded ♪

00:06:47,760 --> 00:06:57,320

♪ Safe home, expressing it ♪
♪ here, busy, focused, calm, and grounded ♪

00:07:04,600 --> 00:07:10,640
The giant industrial gas heater has been turned off by the owner in retaliation for starting a union

00:07:14,560 --> 00:07:17,560 and that's why they are all here gathered

00:07:19,880 --> 00:07:25,040 to raise money for the pizza with anchovies that the lawyer is eating on the reclaimed orange pleather couch

00:07:26,080 --> 00:07:32,080 Narrator+Odin: [chanted] No landlords, no cops, these evictions have to stop. No landlords, no cops

00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:40,360 Arr The landlords have a problem on their hands Arr

00:07:41,720 --> 00:07:46,160 [continuous evolving rhythmic music]

00:07:47,680 --> 00:07:53,080 ♪ Because the usury of others' labor value to pad one's own lifestyle ♪

00:07:53,320 --> 00:07:56,560

Odin: [singing, in left and right speakers] has

been canceled / has been canceled...

00:07:56,640 --> 00:07:57,880

Narrator: has been cancelled

00:07:58,560 --> 00:07:59,640

along with the rent.

00:08:01,280 --> 00:08:04,000

♪ The usury of others' labor value ♪

00:08:04,360 --> 00:08:06,680

♪ to pad one's own lifestyle ♪

00:08:09,280 --> 00:08:10,600

Narrator+Odin: has been [Odin joins] canceled

00:08:11,520 --> 00:08:12,520

Narrator: along with the rent.

00:08:14,680 --> 00:08:20,920

[rhythmic music continues]

00:08:23,280 --> 00:08:27,480

[low frequency feedback weaved into music]

00:08:32,520 --> 00:08:35,520

[all sound recede except rhythm, tempo increasing]

00:08:36,960 --> 00:08:43,080

[staccato, open throat voice enters]

[rhythm fades]

00:08:45,440 --> 00:08:49,640

[improvised percussion and voice]

00:08:51,960 --> 00:08:58,360

[trill of flute rises from the improvisation]

00:08:59,280 --> 00:09:06,680

[vocalization calls out and recedes]

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:15,800

[continued improvisation voice, flute, trumpet, percussion]

00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:26,440

[guttural voice and trumpet swell]

00:09:32,000

[ethereal synthesizers join]

00:10:15,960 --> 00:10:27,160

[upbeat rhythmic composition enters, low in mix]

00:10:56,400 --> 00:11:11,080

[chanting in call and response]

Jooh, whoa (ooh, whoa), yeah (yeah) J

00:11:12,360 --> 00:11:20,160

[chanting, improvisation held in synth composition]

00:11:52,600 --> 00:12:00,120

[All sounds fade except chanting]

Jooh, whoa (ooh, whoa), yeah (yeah) J

00:12:02,680 --> 00:12:06,560

[chanting stops]

[synth glisses from low to high pitch]

00:12:08,480 --> 00:12:17,240

♪ Odin moves across large metal panels ♪

00:12:17,240 --> 00:12:21,680

♪ to a table with the word ♪

00:12:21,680 --> 00:12:26,520

Odin moves across large metal panels

to a table with the word CURSELESS

00:12:26,520 --> 00:12:29,520

(♪ curseless ♪) sitting on it

(♪ sitting on it ♪)

00:12:30,480 --> 00:12:32,600 Odin: A neon sign sits in a mirage

00:12:32,600 --> 00:12:37,960 A neon sign sits in a mirage (♪ a neon sign sits in a mirage ♪)

00:12:39,200 --> 00:12:44,200 Odin: An able-bodied man walks by and sits next to them

00:12:44,200 --> 00:12:46,120 ♪ an able bodied man walks by ♪

00:12:48,720 --> 00:12:50,280 \$\(\sigma\) and sits next to them \$\(\sigma\)

00:12:58,680 --> 00:13:01,560 The noise, the shaking interrupts the travel

00:13:01,560 --> 00:13:04,160 Odin's travel (♪ Odin moves ♪)

00:13:06,480 --> 00:13:08,000 The noise, the shaking interrupts

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:11,200 Odin: The noise, the shaking interrupts Odin's travel

00:13:11,200 --> 00:13:12,480 curseless

00:13:12,480 --> 00:13:14,720 He travels on to get his ice cream.

00:13:14,880 --> 00:13:17,200 Odin: The shaking interrupts

## Odin's travel

00:13:17,200 --> 00:13:21,040 ♪ Odin moves ♪

00:13:22,800 --> 00:13:28,280 Odin: the man stops as if he has heard something

00:13:29,560 --> 00:13:36,240 in confusion at the presence of another . . . and then that confusion sinks in, and he travels on

00:13:36,240 --> 00:13:38,040 towards his ice cream

00:13:40,680 --> 00:13:42,000 but the ice cream has melted

00:13:43,760 --> 00:13:50,680 into the mirage it doesn't matter though because he seems... determined?

00:13:53,240 --> 00:13:55,560 and then they

00:13:56,400 --> 00:13:57,680 travel on

00:14:06,200 --> 00:14:14,800 ☐ The metal planks clank and absorb ☐
☐ they travel on oblivious / the sudden steps ☐

00:14:15,240 --> 00:14:20,760 Arr with the certainty that he makes Arr

 $00:14:20,760 \longrightarrow 00:14:24,000$  The able-bodied man plays video games  $\Gamma$ 

00:14:24,360 --> 00:14:26,400

Odin: The able-bodied man plays video games

00:14:28,080 --> 00:14:30,880

00:14:30,880 --> 00:14:32,000 Odin: Because he notices Odin

00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:43,960 [singing fades] [low feedback calls out and fades to silence]

00:14:59,040 --> 00:15:14,000 [reverberent saxophone calls out] [electronically processed voice joins in duet]

J ooh J [percussive knocking]

00:15:45,720 --> 00:15:58,920 Odin: Dear Letitia James, I'm writing to you as a trans amputee, activist, organizer,

00:15:58,920 --> 00:16:05,160 and stink-face maker

00:16:05,160 --> 00:16:17,000 and a cancer survivor, breathing-life Bohemian Waxwing and a target of unnecessary violence.

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:26,880 By Prince, I mean Prince Blue Line Gang Jay.

00:16:54,520 --> 00:17:11,920 [dark sonic textures materialize]

00:17:16,880 --> 00:17:27,080 [saxophone trills and flutters]

00:17:33,640 --> 00:17:38,960 Bohemian Waxwing's False Imprisonment

00:17:39,080 --> 00:17:44,320 At all pertinent times, Prince Blue Line Gang Jay and the New York City Police Department were aware

00:17:44,400 --> 00:17:49,360 that there was no basis of claim for Bohemian Waxwing's wrongful arrest.

00:18:00,320 --> 00:18:06,120

Odin was held in custody for over 20 hours, some of which they spent in jail without medical care

00:18:06,120 --> 00:18:11,480 for their injuries sustained due to Prince Blue Line Gang Jay's deliberate indifference towards

00:18:11,480 --> 00:18:13,200 the care of Bohemian Waxwing.

00:18:18,200 --> 00:18:23,800

Odin was put in the ankle shackles as well as handcuffs, and deliberately disabled when

00:18:23,800 --> 00:18:28,240 Prince Blue Line Gang Jay violently removed Bohemian Waxwing's leg.

00:18:34,920 --> 00:18:40,600 Upon information and disbelief, at all pertinent times, Prince Blue Line Gang Jay and the

00:18:40,600 --> 00:18:46,240 New York City Police Department, as well as Anonymous Police Officers one through three,

00:18:46,280 --> 00:18:58,360 their agents, servants, and employees violated Odin's rights under 42 USC Section 1983 by pursuing a policy,

00:18:58,400 --> 00:19:07,080 practice, and custom demonstrating decisions and/or deliberate indifference that allowed for

00:19:07,080 --> 00:19:13,600 the repeated assault of Odin by Prince Blue Line Gang Jay, as well as repeated denial of adequate 00:19:13,600 --> 00:19:18,720 medical attention and treatment, in acting with deliberate indifference to claimant's health, and

00:19:18,720 --> 00:19:22,800 by acting with deliberate indifference to protect Bohemian Waxwing's safety.

00:19:26,800 --> 00:19:34,600 [swishing synthetic wind speeds up and slows]

00:19:44,800 --> 00:19:51,640
Okay, so those are the words I wished I had said.
But instead, it was much more like —

00:19:54,120 --> 00:20:01,240 Confined, Bohemian Waxwing strikes at the caged window car door like a corner kick – plastic,

00:20:01,480 --> 00:20:06,160 crush, slam and thump with his one flesh leg.

00:20:06,360 --> 00:20:10,360 The door flies open, and they fly to the inside of the vacuum, and are immediately

00:20:10,360 --> 00:20:12,080 tackled by a gaggle of Blue Jays.

00:20:16,240 --> 00:20:24,040 [blue jay sounds] [crackling fire] [spring peepers]

00:20:34,440 --> 00:20:47,960 [field recordings blend with distant ambient drone]

00:21:22,480 --> 00:21:31,400 [fire crackling] [atmospheric soundscape]

00:23:10,840 --> 00:23:28,960 [synthetic wind] [singing bowls]

00:24:50,000 --> 00:25:00,000 [airy, spraying sounds fade and recede]

00:25:46,720 --> 00:25:48,320 I'm sorry you feel that way.

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:51,320 [sirens emerge from soundscape]

00:26:10,920 --> 00:26:13,840 How might I make you feel more comfortable in my presence?

00:26:39,600 --> 00:26:42,880
Those are the words I wished I had said, but instead it was much more like:

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:52,240 ellipsis . . .

00:26:52,240 --> 00:26:56,400 and my shame is looking at your shame is seeing through my shame is looking at your shame

00:26:56,400 --> 00:26:57,320 is seeing through me.

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:00,640 [distant, harmonic synthesizer music enters]

00:27:04,920 --> 00:27:10,240 And then my shame is looking through your shame seeing through my shame is looking through

00:27:10,240 --> 00:27:10,640 your shame.

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:28,600 My shame is looking at your shame. And your shame is seeing through my shame.

00:27:30,400 --> 00:27:34,440 And my shame is looking at your shame

00:27:34,440 --> 00:27:39,080 Then I guess those shames are seeing through both of us.

00:28:05,080 --> 00:28:12,000
It was like I was wobbling in the wind while trying to explain why I had to adjust myself in public

00:28:13,120 --> 00:28:16,880 He wouldn't listen.

00:28:20,800 --> 00:28:26,600 Imagine being on stilts focusing on your balance and someone comes at you, big.

00:28:26,600 --> 00:28:28,800 and says 'don't touch my stick'

00:28:29,280 --> 00:28:35,520 So what do you do? You yell. I was trying to yell at him, "I can't walk." And he says to

00:28:35,520 --> 00:28:40,560 "get your hands out of your pockets" and I'm afraid all of a sudden, so he says "back up."

00:28:40,560 --> 00:28:41,680 I step to him.

00:28:53,960 --> 00:28:56,960 [electronic music intensifies]

00:29:04,560 --> 00:29:11,000 He didn't understand that gravity seemed to pull me sideways, like the wind ought to,

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:21,040 there's just a slow weight, and inside of it, a balance —

00:29:21,680 --> 00:29:23,920 I'm falling

00:29:29,800 --> 00:29:32,800 [music slows, distorts]

00:29:51,720 --> 00:29:59,280 Slow motion drowns out everyone around me. All there are bright lights swishing as if brushed and

00:29:59,280 --> 00:30:06,480 dark red but there's nothing, just me and his demons and perhaps he's already begun to

00:30:06,480 --> 00:30:14,960 understand mine, and that's why my shame is looking your shame is seeing through my shame.

00:30:14,960 --> 00:30:19,200 It's like, my shame was looking at his shame and his shame was looking at my shame, and then our

00:30:19,200 --> 00:30:21,400 shames like exploded at one another.

00:30:28,920 --> 00:30:30,680 Except

00:30:31,440 --> 00:30:39,800 in the explosion, it's like his arms became shrapnel that actually hit me,

00:30:39,800 --> 00:30:41,360 and, like, went inside.

00:30:47,560 --> 00:30:54,320 My face is in the concrete, and my ear is hot and ringing, stinging.

00:30:57,200 --> 00:31:00,200 [sound becomes dense, claustrophobic]

00:31:06,280 --> 00:31:12,400 I'm trying to catch my breath and I can't move. I'm trapped, confined, held down.

00:31:15,880 --> 00:31:17,920 You're stopping me

00:31:17,920 --> 00:31:23,440

I cannot take control of my body because it is literally in your hands.

00:31:24,920 --> 00:31:26,520 Sometimes I worry if you're intending to hurt me,

00:31:26,520 --> 00:31:27,680 and right now I wonder.

00:31:32,680 --> 00:31:39,200 [street sound, siren cuts through]

00:32:00,080 --> 00:32:04,600
So it was just like me and his demons, and perhaps that's why I guess he's already

00:32:04,600 --> 00:32:06,240 begun to understand mine.

00:32:13,560 --> 00:32:14,400 But perhaps not.

00:32:19,920 --> 00:32:26,160
Perhaps he looks at my leg, and when his words are dispelled — and he looks at my disability

00:32:26,160 --> 00:32:32,040 as if he knows that it's going to be left to fend for itself, after he smacks it with his anger

00:32:32,040 --> 00:32:40,280 or his hurt and with his own trauma, and blood-red desperate need to control.

00:32:44,240 --> 00:32:50,600 He can't figure out my gender, and that scares him I feel,

00:32:50,600 --> 00:32:53,400 and he wants to know my sex, and we fight

00:32:53,400 --> 00:32:59,680

like a married couple after years of abuse. There's something about me he likes,

00:32:59,680 --> 00:33:04,520 and by hour 10 we begin to get to know each other.

00:33:04,520 --> 00:33:08,440 We dance. He pulls on my arm, and I pull back.

00:33:08,520 --> 00:33:11,120 He trips me and threatens to turn the sound on because I cry.

00:33:12,720 --> 00:33:17,160
I ask him if his father knows
where he is and what he is doing

00:33:20,800 --> 00:33:27,200 [rhythmic electronic music]

00:33:53,440 --> 00:33:56,120 Odin begins to glue the planks together

00:33:56,120 --> 00:34:03,560 ♪ Odin begins to glue the planks together ♪

00:34:04,640 --> 00:34:08,160
Odin: As the planks are stacked and then pulled apart by Odin

00:34:08,160 --> 00:34:11,480 ♪ As the planks are stacked and then pulled apart by Odin ♪

00:34:11,480 --> 00:34:14,360 Odin: they sound off 

↑ They sound off ↑

00:34:17,720 --> 00:34:22,080 ♪ Complicit, complicit ♪

00:34:23,880 --> 00:34:27,240 Complacency kills

00:34:27,600 --> 00:34:29,840 ♪Complacency kills ♪

00:34:30,400 --> 00:34:31,760 The planks get piled up

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:40,800 ♪ Complicit, complicit, complacency kills. ♪

00:34:42,960 --> 00:34:45,200 Odin begins to glue the planks together,

00:34:45,200 --> 00:34:47,800 and the planks get piled up.

00:34:48,440 --> 00:34:54,080

Odin: The people united will never be defeated.

00:34:54,400 --> 00:34:59,120 ↓The people united will never be defeated.

00:35:00,120 --> 00:35:01,720

Odin: The people

00:35:01,760 --> 00:35:03,680 United

00:35:04,280 --> 00:35:05,040

Odin: will never be

00:35:05,480 --> 00:35:06,160 defeated.

00:35:07,360 --> 00:35:14,760

The planks pile up. They reach the ceiling.

00:35:16,640 --> 00:35:25,960 As the planks are unstacked and then pulled apart, they sound off

00:35:28,360 --> 00:35:33,320 Odin begins to build a modest super home 00:35:33,400 --> 00:35:36,840 with these materials.

00:35:39,160 --> 00:35:44,640 The colors reflect from one another:

00:35:45,880 --> 00:35:47,680 translucent,

00:35:49,840 --> 00:35:52,080 supertite,

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:57,040 mirrored.

00:35:58,760 --> 00:36:01,760 [electronic music]

00:36:24,280 --> 00:36:30,800 Prince Blue Line Gang Jay cries out.

00:36:30,800 --> 00:36:32,000 [breathing]

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:33,320 He sings:

00:36:35,000 --> 00:37:30,280 [open throat, choral screaming]

00:37:33,720 --> 00:37:48,080 [electronic music]

00:38:12,040 --> 00:38:18,040 We live in a state of precarity because we live disabled in an imperialist,

00:38:18,040 --> 00:38:24,080 white supremacist, capitalist, patriarchy.

00:38:24,320 --> 00:38:32,920 We live on a fixed income that often cannot afford the rent, and it makes a deadly disconnect.

00:38:45,200 --> 00:38:49,760 We're excluded from a right to live

00:38:49,760 --> 00:38:54,760 peacefully while healing, even when that healing is chronic

00:38:58,520 --> 00:39:03,760 because the American job market moves at speeds where the colors blur

00:39:03,760 --> 00:39:07,200 all alongside one another, like sound waves bopping and weaving

00:39:08,720 --> 00:39:13,920 like anyone avoiding the landing of a physical face-to-first confrontation.

00:39:13,920 --> 00:39:16,920 in capitalism, I haven't found a way

00:39:19,680 --> 00:39:22,680 [electronic music builds]

00:39:28,840 --> 00:39:33,640 to fight and tussle, to compete, to earn, to win.

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:38,200 [Odin's voice disintegrates in rhythmic distortion]

 $00:40:05,920 \longrightarrow 00:40:11,480$  \$\text{\text}\$ and that healing is chronic \$\text{\text{\text{}}}\$

00:40:11,480 --> 00:40:16,120 [words disintegrate and reform as electronic music]

00:40:16,120 --> 00:40:19,120 and that healing is chronic

00:40:20,680 --> 00:40:24,520 Yours is too, you just don't yet know it 

♪ When will this end? ♪

00:40:25,200 --> 00:40:29,680 I wonder if we're about to realize this pandemic is chronic.

00:40:32,320 --> 00:40:37,080 That it's terminal to what we know.

00:40:38,720 --> 00:40:44,400 While I ponder a punch lands. It's the Social Security Office,

00:40:44,400 --> 00:40:52,440 the institution responsible for holding up people who are affected by major medical traumas like mine.

00:40:56,160 --> 00:41:02,800 [words dissolve and form sonic texture]

00:41:07,320 --> 00:41:11,120 Unspoken definition tells us that

00:41:11,120 --> 00:41:14,080 disability means that

00:41:14,080 --> 00:41:16,760 Time is different [words slow and pitch]

00:41:17,640 --> 00:41:20,280 Paced out differently

00:41:22,880 --> 00:41:26,280 Sometimes I think disability means paced out differently [words distort and resurface]

00:41:26,520 --> 00:41:33,280 Now the experience is that billions are simultaneously exposed to death and disability 00:41:33,280 --> 00:41:38,400 a bunch of humans on a path of chronic healing

00:41:39,120 --> 00:41:44,080 and we're some of the people who see the scaffolding of our

00:41:44,120 --> 00:41:47,680 collectively

00:41:47,960 --> 00:41:50,880 visioned

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:53,240 push.

00:41:57,960 --> 00:42:00,960 [electronic rhythms reform]

00:42:19,880 --> 00:42:22,880 [birds return]

[all sounds fade except synthetic organ drone]

[organ drone stops and echoes into the silence]