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## Diplomacy

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## Diplomacy

### Abstract

Jakarta calls you. An ache like a hot tap grizzling in your head reminds you that it's there,

# Mark Macleod

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## DIPLOMACY

Jakarta calls you. An ache like a hot tap  
grizzling in your head reminds you that it's there,  
but you bend for the paper anyway and draw  
a hand across the gap in your pyjamas.  
There were thumps like a blocked drain next door  
in the night: someone is alive.  
The soles of your feet are numb and wet,  
there are tracks behind you on the lawn.  
Your voice is sharp and quick  
and you withdraw into certainty.  
*Canberra is a beautiful city.*  
*In the winter it is surrounded*  
*by mountains. You should see it.*  
*The parrots are stunning against the snow.*