

## untitled 1

Taqralik Partridge

even the ones who are never sure about anything  
even the ones who are super quiet  
even the consultants  
even the academics  
even the ones with six figure salaries  
even the poorest ones  
even the single mothers - especially the single mothers  
even the ones who 'normally don't like to get involved'  
even the ones who thought they had turned their backs  
even the guys who say insulting things and the women in their lives are never sure if they should turn their backs  
even the ones who were stolen from their mothers - especially the ones who were stolen from their mothers  
even the lawyers  
even the doctors  
even the government workers  
even the ones who agreed that 'it's just a costume'  
even the ones who say 'it's just a sports team'  
even the ones who insist 'everyone should just calm down'  
even the ones who prefer to look on the bright side  
even the ones who always see the downside  
even the ones who know they will lose friends, lose family  
even the ones who have lost family - especially the ones who have lost family  
even the dancers  
even the poets  
even the politicians  
even the ones who live far up north  
even the ones who say 'nobody owes you anything'  
even the ones who were traveling when they found out

even the ones who were on stage  
even the ones on their honeymoon  
even the ones with the flu  
even the ones with mostly white friends  
even the ones with no children  
even the ones who are very young  
even his sisters in Standing Rock  
even a DJ from Greenland  
even Martin Luther King junior's daughter  
even the ones who send money to tv preachers  
even the ones who are just clinging to their own lives - especially the ones who are just clinging to their own lives  
even the ones who couldn't bring themselves to say anything about Barbara, or Cindy, or Loretta, or Tina, or Savanna, or Anna  
Mae, or Annie, or Lucy, or Mary Papatsie  
even the radio personalities  
even the reporters  
even the ones who think that nobody listens  
even the ones who are just trying to be 'regular Canadians'  
even the museum curators  
even the hunters  
even the single mothers - especially the single mothers  
even the singers  
even the seamstresses  
even the 'recently retired and tired of it all' ones  
even the ones who only recently found their connection  
even the ones whose only connection to any of this is their partner, or their child, or neighbour, or co-worker, or simple  
recognition of common humanity  
even the ones who can only shake their heads  
even the ones who can only wring their hands  
even the ones who just can't

all of them, all of them  
everyone  
drew back their heads, wide-eyed,  
in pain,  
and in fear,  
and in dismay  
and in anger  
but not  
no, not  
in disbelief  
because what is known, does not require believing or not believing