

**I Am Neanderthal  
(And You Are Too)**

early one morning  
she was gathering firewood  
not far from her cave

in nearby forest  
a man—one of the Others  
hunted for squirrels

alone and helpless  
her trusted kin did not hear  
her faint anguished calls

such was the danger  
when We and They encountered  
in those lawless times

my grandmother's cries  
three thousand lifespans ago  
call to me today



Photo: Grote Mandrin, one of many caves in France occupied intermittently by both Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens for thousands of years. Source: CNRS

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