

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

A nonconsensual scenario

early one evening
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



The aggressors could have been, and no doubt were, of either species.

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