

# *Sketch*

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## Looking For Home

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*Looking For Home*  
*(for Jesse Jackson)*  
Jennifer Grace

how it must be  
this walk to the stage  
your face lighted  
by camera lamps  
and bright blinding flashes  
the press of eager people  
their minds also flashing  
their eyes pulling you

before you take the podium  
remember the walk  
the trudge from Selma to Washington  
over hot asphalt  
how their feet must have burned  
in those tight black shoes  
the clothes crawling on their backs  
the stares of enemies  
on the gravel shoulder  
also climbing their backs  
perfect targets

or another walk  
from Georgia to Oklahoma  
the sting of salt and dust  
the children crying and tired  
the low hum  
of moaning and singing  
and the shimmer  
of whispered negotiations  
and refraction of heat  
on the trail

the sudden trip  
from San Francisco to encampment  
the hasty drop and packing  
leaving behind home  
businesses familiarities  
for flat wood beds  
and land and days  
moving slowly  
as subterra plates

or thinking of my own  
and my mother's  
wander between buildings  
and offices saved nightly  
by the Salvation Army with warm  
soup cots a shower  
we hide our hands in the pockets  
of our free Goodwill parkas  
displaceddistressed  
and still looking  
for home

how it must be  
to stand up  
to be exposed  
to testify  
to a bouquet of microphones  
on days when you are tired  
of strange rooms and languages  
when trouble  
lies like a lump  
in your stomach  
and better memories jingle  
like the coins in your pocket

