

What if .. . a song in mAny parts

alternative / alternAte :

exhale in your footspores

and if I now

(cluck cluck)

& you

(wu—U. wuhu—uuwo-hu)

then

if I and wu—U.—uuwo-hu

(tra la lA)

if

if (mais oui)

if

(cluck cluck)

& you forüber plusquAmpfect

all of this in another voice: unrest (cluck cluck) foreboding

yet it —poem— come {the air is dry sentences

(the ceiling YES an oasis)}

Überhimmel

(cluck cluck)

the teaspoon endlessly

round/sop a ticktock table [and this is of course

where we draw a

tAble]

if we (alwAys oui)

the green of my(h)our childhood

Astrid Alben is a poet, editor and translator. Her recent collection *Little Dead Rabbit* came out with Prototype Publishing in 2022. Her translation of Anne Vegter's *Eiland berg gletsjer/Island mountain glacier* received an English PEN Translates award (2022).