

DEDICATION

To live without
The healing properties of books

To read alone
To anyone while writing

To accept the chance
To pay by cashier's check

Securing the app
Of dormant iris bulbs, flowers

To offer as condolences
Or pets

To being de la
To being de la

To combing his hands through the
Extraordinary qualities

Sometimes I wish I had
10 things

To do
To the

Often I admit I'm waking up
To my diagnosis

To list the names of
Ghosts, there are

A few
In active service

To affix my address
To your wrong address

To the approximate
of days

Associated with
Rocks, earth, deathliness

Technology and
Flattening one's chest

To hide
To kissing like that, at

A snail's pace
To the melody of "Return

To Hot Chicken" or "Back
To the Old House"

To the dictionary
Mercifully, in a merciful way

To being your man, mainly
To being anyone else

To thanking you for
Thinking me

From text to
Speech to

Text, then
To replace what I want

With caesura, feel
Where you are

Whenever you are
And say hello

— Claire Donato, originally published in *Ninth Letter*