

This morning I woke up
With that underwater feeling in one of my ears.

I hate that feeling.

It's the imbalance that's the worst,
the feeling that one side is blocked
while the other side is open.

In this way, sometimes a double repression is better.
At least there's an equilibrium.

So true.

I don't wear earbuds.

You shouldn't wear headphones so much. Especially ear buds.
I think the ear responds to the presence of plastic near the ear canal
with an overproduction of wax, as a prophylactic.
Or the persistent vibration of sound directly into the ear
stimulates wax like a callous.

No I use –
bone-conduction headphones

And what is the effect of all that time spent inside your own head
anyway?

I said –
I said –
Sorry, no it felt like something had just closed over my ear hole,
as if it was filled with wax, or water was trapped inside,
pressing on the drum. I tried pulling on my earlobe,
hoping to dislodge the obstacle,
but the blockage was far too serious.

Closed off in your own world. It wouldn't surprise me
if this explains everything. Your ear
but also like, everything, you know?
What?
Sorry.

I walked to the bathroom still tugging on my ear, and retrieved a probe,
just a small utensil, meant for something else,
and guided it towards the ear of my reflection in the mirror.
But while adjusting the glass to get a direct line of sight into the depth of
my canal,
I noticed another hole just behind the tragus.

A second orifice,
a double of the first, like two nostrils,
separated by a thin septum marking an undiscovered symmetry;
a symmetry internal to my symmetry, hidden in a fold.
It is this hole, rather than my usually well-cleaned chasm, that is feeling
the pressure.

What purpose could this second tunnel have?
Is it meant for more occulted messages?
More sacred intakes?