

How To Touch A Color

C. Room Maxwell

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How To Touch A Color

If you want to touch a color
in the beautiful world,

just use your fingers
and put them on
the brightest part of it.

This much is true,
you only need to know two things
to touch a color.

A black and white picture
A still-life canvas
A line drawing
A darkening sky
Or a misty morning
A lilac bud
A butterfly
A red rose
A yellow tulip
A violet

How to touch a color
Close your eyes
Listen to the silence
Find that color in your mind

Black is in the background
White is in the foreground
Blue is the sky
Gray is the fog

And when you find them
Open your eyes
Feel the color
And step in

Every hue has a different feel
There is one that you need to feel
Just move your fingers until you find it
And it might be a little hard to find it
But when you find the color of your dreams
It will be the one that you need the most

The color of my dreams is orange
I like the feel of the fruit
And the color orange is bright
It's so bright I can't keep my eyes shut

The colors
are so vibrant,
think how it feels to touch the violet
with your fingertips.

Or the way the yellow jumps
out of your hands
like a petal from an iris.

Or how the blue you're painting
is so light and cool
on your fingertips.

Think about how it would feel
to touch the colors.

Look at the red in the apple
and stop thinking about what you know
It is sweet and full
and you can taste it too
just pick it up
and touch it

How to touch a color. she said
Lean closer and let me feel your grip

The red of my hair that you thought so unique
Is just the light that's reflecting off of my skin
The blue of your eyes that I thought so intense
I can't stare at for too long without getting a twitch
The green of my shirt that's just a shade too bright
Is just the paint on a picture in a frame
The yellow of my skin that you thought too pale
Is just the shadow of the moon on the ground

The colors that you think are so vibrant
That you think are so alive
Are just the colors that have always existed

What would I need to do
To touch the red you are
Would I need a pool of paint
Or would I need a brush
Or would I need a white coat
To be in my close proximity

The first time I heard you
I wondered, how to touch a color
as if it was an object
I could feel
behind the canvas
I had to touch you
with my fingers
across the canvas
to feel
your warmth
that was your color

I know how to touch the color of your hair
I know how to hold your hands in mine
And reach for your lips in the dark
I know how to touch the color of your skin
Underneath the clothes
How to find the pulse and the rhythm
And taste your salty blood
I know how to touch the color of your eyes
How to see you in the sky
I can see your whole life in there
How to love you
I know how to touch you

How to touch a color without
letting the hue escape
through the cracks in your fingers
or through the cracks in your lips?

Simple.
just touch the color
but not too much
until all of the difference
between you
and that color
is gone.

About C. Room Maxwell

Room is found in the northern climes of Wellesley, Massachusetts, spending time reading, writing, and hibernating. A poetic autodidact, Room finds inspiration primarily in the romantic poets and Victorian novelists, but takes insight from poetry and prose wherever it may be found, to inform an idiosyncratic poetic style.