

## I can't save you

it's not for nothing  
you invited me  
to come hiking into your life  
took my hand  
and touched my heart

you may wonder  
what you were doing  
but I don't

and you wrote to say

*deeply familiar pain  
struggling inside  
don't want to struggle  
but don't want to confirm yet again  
the idea that I cannot love*

damn, girl  
you might have been stuck  
thinking this for who knows  
how long  
but I think you've got it  
backwards

and for now at least  
in a small but important way  
our fates are interwoven

you said you feel me reaching out  
I feel you reaching out too

and it's not for nothing  
you are hesitating

your stopping and waiting  
is important

the key to breaking this logjam

whether it feels safe and right  
for you

to open up to me physically  
is very important  
but it's not a goal  
it's just a question  
with no wrong answer

what matters  
is not what happens  
but how it happens  
whether we are true  
to ourselves  
and each other

and whether we become friends  
who trust  
each other  
is the most important part

you may doubt  
that you can love  
but I won't

not falling in love with me  
is not a measure  
of you and love at all  
and it's not a measure  
of me either  
it's one piece  
of who we are together  
and here's the test  
it's a measure of the care  
we take  
the real love we express  
in what we do

and what we say  
and maybe all of this  
is asking way too much  
of both of us  
we'll see

no rules  
if you're not drawn to me  
I accept that  
and really  
I know you do too

if you are drawn to me  
and are afraid  
then I expect you can manage  
not to run away

and if you don't know  
then I expect you to hang in  
and put up with that uncertainty  
and me too

if we simplify all of this  
ask  
what kind of fun  
do we each want  
and what kind of fun  
do we think we  
can we make together

and if we like the answers  
how can we keep  
our silly selves  
from getting in the way

we don't have to be magical  
real and present  
will do

I can't convince you  
but you can

and ditto  
you can't convince me  
but I can

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