

BAD LANGUAGE

We fear to speak, and silence coats the night air. So we are dumb, as quiet as the kitchen pans hanging on their cabinet hooks. What words do we even have? The root of *fuck* is as much *to strike* as *to copulate*. And sometimes *ravish* is *to rape*. But when you're ravishing, you're beautiful. Strikingly beautiful. Other tongues do not help. Try saying "kiss me" on the streets of Paris. God does not help. The Bible is full of prohibition. *Thou shalt not*, saith the lord. *No* sounds like *know*. *To know* is *to understand*. In the Bible *to know* is *to fuck*. What do you mean when you say *no*? I think I know. I want to know. Understand me. You're ravishing. I want to know you. Strike me. Don't leave me alone with self-knowledge and these rich, fruitless, unspoken words.