

Your own petition

Hello.
This is your inner voice speaking.
Can you hear me?

I'm the one that said
'Leave a note on that car'
when you reversed
bumper into bumper
in the carpark last week
and then drove off.

'Don't do that' I told you,
the night before the morning after,
'stay in charge';
but you faded me into the hum
of anger and alcohol and shouting,
so that the morning after
'Apologise' is what you had to hear.

Listen to me now.

You loved the courage of the man
who stood in front of tanks
In Tianamen Square,
but in the end it's something
that you saw on television.
I'm not like that you say.

Look around you

.
The time for comfortable
observation has gone,
that dark seductive pairing,
power and hate,
have broken out.
Don't talk yourself into paralysis,
accept disaster, shrug.

Take one small step with others,
ask question after question,
raise your voice to say
'no further down this road'.
Be one of many,
join the people just like you,
gather on the street.

Remember the story of the sticks:
one snaps, a bundle's unbreakable.

Ruth Aylett