first published in the us by atheneum books in 2022
first published in the uk in 2022 by faber & faber limited
bloomsbury house, 74–77 great russell street, london WC1B 3DA
faberchildrens.co.uk
printed in the uk by cpi group (uk) ltd, croydon, CR0 4YY
all rights reserved
text copyright © 2022 by jason reynolds
illustration copyright © 2022 by jason griffin
first published by atheneum books an imprint of simon & schuster
children's publishing division
published by arrangement with pippin properties, inc. through rights people, london.
the right of jason reynolds and jason griffin to be identified as the
authors of this work has been asserted in accordance with
section 77 of the copyright, designs and patents act 1988
this book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser
a cip record for this book is available from the british library
isbn 978–0–571–37474–8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For everyone we lost

and everything we learned

in the strangest year of our lives – 2020

– R & G

BREATH ONE



And I'm sitting here wondering why

my mother won't change the channel

and why the news won't

change the story



and why the story won't

change into something new






instead of the every-hour rerun
about how we won't change the world

or the way we treat the world

or the way we treat each other

and my brother

won't look up from his video game

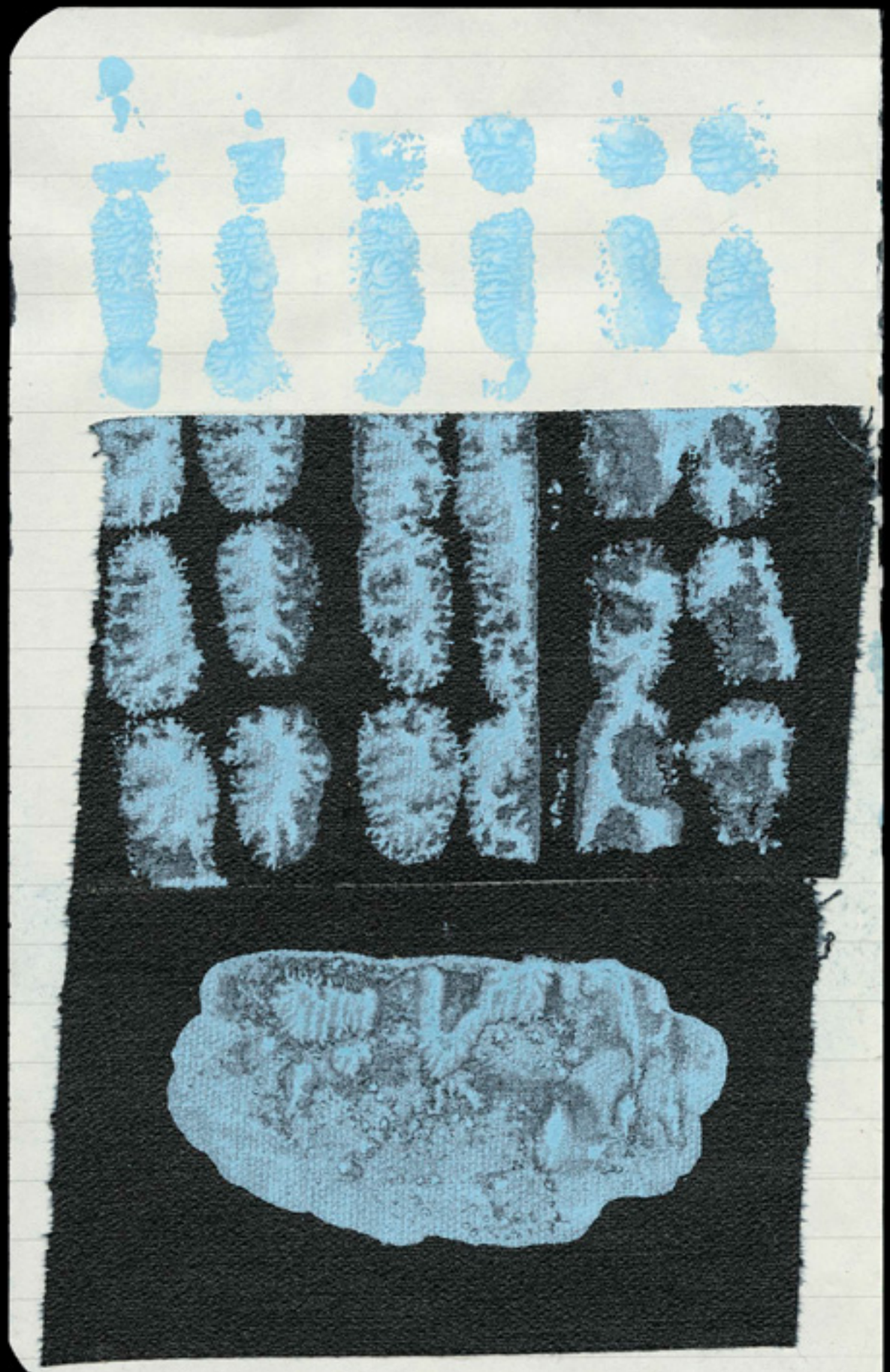


even when I put my hand over the screen

MY MOTHER FOLLOWED HER HEART.

SHE WOULD LEAVE

FORTH TRAVEL TIME





even when I put my hands on his

even when I turn my elbow into a fist

and punch the bendy big-knuckle

into his ribs

to try to knock his heart awake


DO NOT
ENTER


and he just groans and ignores me

and don't even look up