

Glass Housesⁱ

Confinement is a one-way glass;
we can't see past ourselves.
In managed isolation
we are kept and tested
wear colour-coded tags.
Inmates talk of captivity and cattle yards
so freely.
When they said zoo animals missed visits, I doubted.
But now, even the probe is change.
Over the cage floor, *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* comes.
Pastel furies collect and colonise.
Environmental enrichment for our young.
We are tested again.
I know:
for the good of my kind, for a limited time.
The Jaguar knows not that.

Sally Borrell

Notes

ⁱ Reflections during Covid-19 lockdowns and quarantine (with apologies to Ted Hughes). *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* was a popular children's video game at the time involving worldbuilding, anthropomorphic animals, and virtual visits.