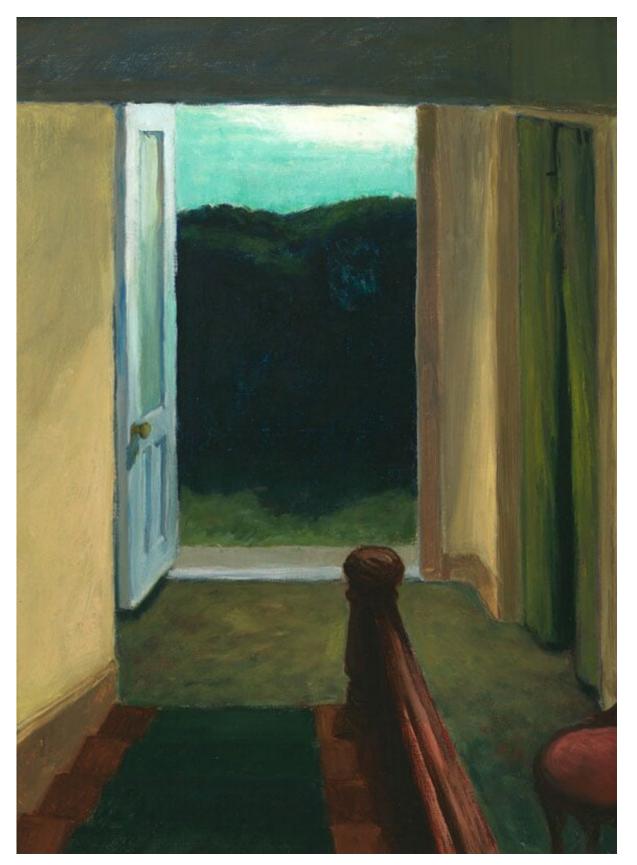
## Nobody's Home Right Now

by Geoffrey Clarfield (August 2019)



Stairway, Edward Hopper, 1949

Nobody's home right now So why don't you Go into the dining room . . . Sit down, have a drink . . . Just don't use the sink

We can't make the place look like new Again . . .

You knew that, didn't you?

Hold that!

If you do,

No, do not throw that

Put it down, down, where there is no sound

No sound, nor sun

Down now,

Put it on the eider down

There's a good boy

And you were a good boy, Weren't you? Please stop singing, No, not that song "Gee up little pony Take me around the town." You were behaving like a clown A red nose with a frown Big feet Wrapped in a big sheet A circus clown who just can't climb down Instead, you have all been going Round and round Was there really any one around? I can't hear a sound He once walked into to a hat-maker's shop There was nobody home Not even a mouse All was quiet, Ah hah! It was not the quite the right house

Was there anything left there or right? I mean around the house . . . It all seemed once so nice . . . Like sweet and sour pork with rice . . .

Hey kid, "You ordered number 27 or was it 42?" No, I said, "Give me 38 and something new." Does that come with a coke? It does not, and for your information Here you cannot smoke

But If there's fire there is smoke And who said anything about hope The heart is always filled with hope Hope is where the heart was His heart just could not cope

He is not home right now And by the way, kid . . . You can't go home now Not even somehow . . . Nobody's home right now

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Geoffrey Clarfield is an anthropologist at large. For twenty years he lived in, worked among and explored the cultures and societies of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. As a development anthropologist he has worked for the following clients: the UN, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Norwegian, Canadian, Italian, Swiss and Kenyan governments as well international NGOs. His essays largely focus on the translation of cultures.

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