We Have to Become Human

We have to become human if we want to be pumas.
We have to become human if we want to be Schubert.
We have to become human if we want to be truthful.
We have to become human if we want a big choo-choo.
We have to become human if we want to eat rhubarb.
We have to become human if we want to ruminate.
We have to become human if we want to hear roosters.
We have to become human if we want a blue frou-frou.
We have to become human if we want to speak Zulu.
We have to become human if we want to wear bloomers.
We have to become human if we want a pluperfect.
We have to become human if we want to shoo-be-doo-be-doo.
We have to become human if we want to see Newton.
We have to become human if we want to push broomsticks.
We have to become human if we want to seek sutras.
We have to become human if we want to meet Rumi.
We have to become human if we want to free Mumia.
We have to become human if we want to be ruthful.
We have to become human if we want to drink root beer.
We have to become human if we don't want a boo-boo.
We have to become human if we don't want in lieu of.
We have to become human if we want a new room.

Richard Loranger

Richard Loranger is a multi-genre writer, performer, text artist, and all-around squeaky wheel who has been working around the United States for over forty years. Their latest book of poetry and flash prose, *Mammal*, was released by Roof Books in October 2023, and they've just been honored with a second edition of *Unit of Agency* from Collapse Press, with five new poems and everything. They've penned four other books and ten chapbooks, and have writing and text art in over 100 magazines and journals. In June of 2024 they started a podcast to chronicle how eliminating television from their living space for one year is affecting their life, health, and creative work. *My 12-Month Video Fast* can be found on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. You can find out more about their work and scandals at https://richardloranger.com.

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photo by Lonely Christopher