

## THE AFTERMATH

Lash can't sleep of course  
Sobriety jarring him  
Oh for drunken dreams  
Sneaky sly drunk Lash  
Cannot lie his way away  
From old cirrhosis  
Oh to sleep like a cat  
On a pile of clean laundry  
Warm from tumble-dry  
Wondering where she is  
And doing what, showering  
Joining the circus  
Three a.m. awake  
Lash the cat, nocturnal  
Hunting happy days  
Mouth healing at least  
Roof burned in chaos, morning  
Pizza, mourning Lash  
Wine scamp's triumphant return  
Murmurs come play, come swing in the elm  
But Lash demurs (for now)

## WORKING IT OUT

Marital home rights

With this ring Lash hast gottem

He don't have to go

The fraught creeps away

Its job well done, vacation days

Bay breeze coming up

Lash supine in the good times

When she walked through shadows

Footed to the oak

What now Lash alone

Sadly everything, this home

Is none too homey

Lash couched in old diary notes

Loopy imprecise constant

Drunken tales gone cold

Pale sedge resting, thin

Stalks sentry new paths

Silver in the morning

Aubade tanager finch

Upstairs a clinching, violet dreams

Spin in snow-breaths

## HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Glass of dinner-wine?

Really? really Lash? Really?

You're a NYQUIL man

Comfort is itself

A gateway to wretched times

Retching etcetera

The problem persists

It's a pretty good liar

But Lash knows better (for now)

Trader Lash is ex-healthcare

You want to make some money

Avoid hospitals

Lash recalls

Templed veins in bas relief

Head-voices, night-sweats, the usual

Now spurs are hung with care

Forever wins the staring contest

Larue's heart beset

The opposite of easy

Is uneasy, enough with the uneasy

Tenderness please, and rest

