

Python

a man was eaten by a python,
she said from across the room...

mmm, I shook my head.

...in Indonesia.
they found his entire
body inside the python.

I said nothing and went back
to reading.

and it occurred to me I had found
a woman
who didn't mind sitting on separate couches
across the room from each other
reading our separate stories.

she's a good woman,
I thought.

this was alright.

ten minutes later she walked over
and asked if she could read
next to me.

sure, I said.
and she laid down at my side
and we read our separate
stories together.

an entire man
swallowed by
a python,
I thought.

These Chicago Motherfuckers

she sat in the passenger seat
as I drove.
the side of her face
had zits
gasping for air
through her makeup.

there are a lot of things
going on in these
store-front theaters, she said.
a lot of young playwrights.

oh yeah? I asked.

yeah, and they're saying
new things, she said.
they're speaking for us
and I would like to help them
say these things.

okay, I said.

I think acting has
always been a part of me,
she went on.
and I like history.
it's interesting to see how
someone lives,
you know,
in different...

time periods?

yeah, time periods.
and I want to express
all these different

women I have inside of me.

you have different
women inside of you? I asked.

I do, yeah.
and I'd like to explore them.

hmmm...

it's a good town, she said.

no it isn't, I thought.

There are darker shadows in and around things, and these shadows have no floor. The darkness is not an end, it's the void of an end. There is no floor there, no stop. Walk around the edge of it and look down into it and perhaps even lower yourself into it like a hot bath, checking the temperature with your body. It will keep going and you will never look back and you will never be bored and you can find these shadows in most things. The crowd will question it or joke at it, whatever is easiest, and that's when you know you're onto something. Use the crowd as a compass. When they point north, go south. Into it all.