

Solitary Refinement

It seems you were there
for millions of years
as the temperature drops
and mammals become extinct
before finding the paperclip
and bobby pin
entwined in the bedsprings
You jiggle locks
Open doors
Exchange the orange jumpsuit
for nakedness

You cross the moat
acquire leeches
disappear in the forest
You walk until the cave
accepts shivering violence
and strike a desperate fire
You drink from the stalactite
watch drawings
on the wall
dance behind rising flames
until hunger rumbles

Indistinct in gloom
the sabertooth stalks
lunges on burning spear
Swift is the kill
You devour the bleeding heart
stake the head outside
gorge on sizzling meat

slip beyond the pool of sleep
torch in hand, to where
the tunnel of darkness mews.