

On to Night

in mourning  
the rotting tulips bow  
their heads

you ruin me with a word;  
I return it to you in song—

a breaking tree  
bends down its boughs  
in winter

Regret

i cut myself  
grasping  
at the shards  
of the moment—after—

desperate to collect  
disparate pieces—

to unsay, swallow  
(sound) and roll  
words back into  
my mouth—

## Chemical Imbalance

buttery biscuits, a warm  
golden light home, what's  
eating you?

alive one moment, dead the next;  
we watch your bright eyes fade,  
the light dimming down to darkness—

a recalcitrant dog pulls  
at her leash, her leash, her leash, and you  
who so love animals, watch  
in silence.

## Holding Compassion

across a decade  
they cower in their bed,  
afraid.

I can see,  
but cannot speak—

velvet darkness—  
an emptiness

a bird calls  
beyond the window;  
blends its voice  
in mourning