

Happenstance

A light snow falling all day,
hardly sticking,
evaporates in a helpless huff,
like the aspirations that shared
my bed this morning.

This marginal day
is finding dusk,
and I will take all graces of
happenstance that reach me.

The reassuring body
of my tuxedo cat,
the warmed lap that will not
appear on my electric bill,

The delightful tap dance
of a deer, as she navigates
a thatch of blackberry
along the driveway's edge.

Winter White

I see winter's rebuke, the
white curtains hanging beside the
white window frame, in front of my
white siding, and the distant rooftops
white with snow, all surrounded
by a bleak, white sky.

The morning is so cold, and desaturated,
and I am so nearly amused,
that I say 'thank you' out loud
to the wild chaos of bare branches,

as their jutting shades of brown
chop the white into a million
geometric pieces, and

as they hold high, like a prize,
the simple visual relief
of a bird's nest, built with twigs.

Anticipating Spring

The day wanes,
like an empty kettle
with no need for heat,
all tasks done or abandoned.

Along a walk of familiar slabs,
old quarry sandstone, modern cement,
I think of meeting Godot, but
simply look for beauty.

A late mid-life winds its way
through my limbs, around my heart,
passing elms in decline,
crossing magnolia in bloom
taking fragrant, lazy directions
lifting my feet.

I think I'm too old to feel this uncertain.
But here I am, watching
as two young squirrels give chase
around the old maple,
anticipating spring.

Night Swim

Campfires flicker on the distant shore
fireflies floating at arm's length.

A foggy mirage of moon
defines our clothes as seaweed
and our skin as silver.

The sand, still warm,
holds our footprints to the water's edge,
where damp becomes wet.

The cool salty arms of the bay
cradle with abandon,
casting our whispered secrets
into the night.

Storm

Long night,
lanterns pitching,
the dull screech and cry
of tree limbs rubbing.

The wind
a dark havoc,
ribbons of rough air
scattering my raked leaves
back across the yard.