

## Assisted Living

Here is  
the bridge

you said  
you'd burn

when you  
got to it

now it's  
no joke

the burning  
inside

that laughter  
and tears

won't  
put out

the gates  
part auto-

atically

those

who can

walk those

who can't

are pushed

like children

in strollers

in the foyer

a few lift

themselves

up and there's

always

one who

thinks

to run

## The Future

Like so many  
pieces of

furniture  
two daddy's

daughters  
argue over

how to  
arrange and

rearrange  
and rearrange

the welcome  
matt and

the deathbed  
they agree on

Cafeteria

On the wall  
where a clock

would be  
hangs a cross

where Jesus  
kills time

by watching  
us eat

## Macular Degeneration

Two lovers  
were necking  
under the willow  
by the lake

they were  
actually  
using  
their necks

from a distance  
they could  
have been  
swans

from a distance  
they could  
have been  
in love

## The Way Many Mothers Talk About Their Dead Mothers

If a whale sings  
in the wrong key

it will get lost  
and remain

alone  
forever

it will not  
stop singing