

The headache can't calibrate flowers. One night the moon threatened love. Its face was Glenn Ford's. It shadowed a steeple clock. A boy captured it in his cereal bowl. Sunlight drained of color. The boy stretched expecting to grab moon fruit.

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Civility is for Dummkopfs to expunge.

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Man enters a building with a plate on his head. Mr. Peanut. There are things he doesn't get. That things talk back. That shouldn't happen. Thoughts know nothing. Ovals on the wall need eyes. Applause. He turned to vinegar.

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It was a convenient period to be celibate.

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Anniversary mud remained in their pies. That language might congest. Their lexicon precedes narcolepsy. They inserted pronouns (voices). Dramatics ensued. Find a way for "noetic."

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Peace with rain. Peace in a leaky shelter. Peace with lightning. Peace puddles. In the desert. Thunder knew your name.

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When you impede your own space don't impede mine. This lunar eclipse is an imposition.

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Farmers found asphyxiated in their silos. Prose maps begin where bridges freeze. Anyone could sneak sips from the smoke fountain.

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A cop watched him buy an Almond Joy. Its wrapper had expired. Below critical levels colors coagulated. It mattered to penny farmers.

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She's a story. Marble bench in empty patio. I've told the narrative essence. Imitation lettuce devalued currency. Bougainvillea after Louis Antoine de Bougainville, French navigator (1729-1811).

THREE WORKS

1.

The neighbors never greet each another. Zinfandel appeals to them more than Merlot. Seals choked on plastic bags. Anita's personality is corrosive. Frame-of-mind references make her nervous. Her hairpin glints in the moonlight. A potato lies next to the cookies in the cupboard. Bulldozers have excavated the hillside beyond the dock. Commit one thing from each day to memory. The pier was crowded. There was a man unmooring his boat or casting into the surf.

2.

Mornings begin with a burp from an appliance, click of the bathroom latch, cereal boxes being shaken, schools buses refueling. After commencement the students sunbathed. Workers destroyed the cafeteria. Somewhere a nurse drinks tea to begin her shift. A sentence should be specific instead of being a hill in the middle of nowhere. Those cows look so peaceful. Children whine until candy arrives.

3.

Rain taps a lake. A flight takes off for Madrid. Memorize Henry V's speech before Agincourt. A show of force benefits the kingdom. Nothing is isolated. There are no false ideas. Up the street a woman is sprawled over her walker. Is it a "human trophy?" Something used to be here. Our itinerary includes a tour through parabolas of pulverized glass. Concave areas pool water.

She got up to stir the succotash. There was no snack bar, rock pile at its center.

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Lee's thrust north failed. The elevator was silent. Wounds inflicted from grapeshot were untreatable. Chimes offered no relief.

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Dogs were sent after the travelers. The priest couldn't help. He slept on a cot in the vestibule.

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A wagon wheel disappeared behind a mountain only to emerge later with a different man holding the reins. What matters is that you've noticed. Cables directed you. The sky diminished as a pink thread.

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Debris finds its corrective space. Old men disappear in rivers. Peccadillo. He reads about the collective unconscious on the bus. A schoolgirl asks what he is thinking. They pass a billboard: WE FOUND ERRORS! The geezer instructs the forsythia to bloom. His ankles ask if they can go home.

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Variables are a nuisance. His hat was in the planter.

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Each day is forgivable.

Richard Chammings