

Speaking Up for Silent Eggs

—after Michael Dickman

Standing in a church today at a wedding all I could think of is whether
all these couples, that I am not half of, are happy
standing elbow to elbow
suits and sundresses, gold on the wrist.
When they sit across from each other mornings, are they happy—
Cheerios or hard-boiled eggs for breakfast
scooping grapefruit sections
while each scrolls iPhone email ads—
Amazon's best-of,
1-800-Flowers delivered to the door,
or the Dropbox promise to save everything that matters
in a cloud.

How do we persist in this living?

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So much window-dressing.

Masks applied,
peeled off each night.

Little time to be stripped down,
varnish all buffed off,
all naked—
I want this sort of thing for people.

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Too often, we thirst in flood and brim in drought,
day and night all contrary.

Sometimes vision is twisted so tight that all living happens
in a rearview mirror.

Maybe it doesn't matter—
all that work
all that work to be with someone or not.

I want together to be less lonely than alone—
together, a small surrender.
Halved grapefruit, two parts of a whole.

How to know—
maybe silent eggs are just fine.



carped

verb \ 'kärp \

[invented definition] to imitate
the carp that begs at the surface
of the water



Two open mouths

pierce the murk
 of green lake
beneath the bridge.

Common carp.
Their bodies, thick
 as a big man's calf and long.
Swinging round on patrol,
 their antenna-like barbel sprout
 like lone whiskers cheekside.

Dark pupils glare from beds
 of gold iris, inverted crescent-moon
 mouths begging.

I'm carped. Circling.
Mouth open and wanting.
 Teetering
on the thin lip
 of the world.



mélange

noun \mā-'läⁿzh, -'länj\
a mixture, often of incongruous

elements



Note to Self: So Much This and That on Facebook

I.

Anniversaries.

Of tech-enhanced bullying.

Of abuse of power. And fear.

Gabriel Taye, 8, beat

by other students at school, found hanging
from a necktie at home days later.

Rebecca Ann Sedwick, 12,

cyberbullied. Sent messages
like *Nobody cares about you.*

Leaped off a concrete silo tower.

Tyler Clementi, 18, webcammed

by a roommate being intimate
with another man. Jumped
from the George Washington Bridge.

That shame. This shaming to death.

II.

This video—a camera-equipped eagle

swooping 2,700 feet down
from the top of Burj Khalifa,

world's tallest building in Dubai.

From tower peak to the fountain below.

Land from sky getting bigger and bolder.

Will this eagle land on its trainer's arm?

For this, people crane their necks.

III.

An Auburn, California,
girls' volleyball team gives
new jerseys, shoes, clothing,
gift cards, and \$16,000
to the girls's team from Paradise,
all victims of Camp Fire.
No dry eyes there.

IV.

Peeps—Blue Raspberry and Bubble Gum
Pumpkin spice latte Peeps.
Marshmallow Chicks Yankee Candles.
Peeps recipes for lacing vodka.
Peeps knitting patterns.
The Peepster, a yellow VW Beetle
with a five-foot Peeps atop.
This ingenuity. What's not to love.

V.

That Saudi-born journalist,
Khashoggi, reporter for the *Washington Post*,
strangled inside the Saudi consulate
in Istanbul. His body dismembered,
parts dissolved in acid.
To leave no trace.