

_____ **Is Not Goodbye**

for Duncan

I.

ask a child for the abstract

and he will answer
with whatever
is right in front of him:
street, blanket, bread, shoe, _____

cannot carry the idea too far

II.

Neglect in a nod that says,
we all do the best we can.

III.

In the first scene at the theater,
the woman had her head in his naked lap.
Who was more vulnerable?
That was always one question.

IV.

how things attract and the relative position

the relative position of how things attract

what comes nearer to _____

but not touching

echo _____ for _____

a mocking bird's cycle of song, a mirror

a relative witness relative to _____ 's position
and what has been witnessed
what has been witnessed, relative to how things attract
exactly that
in the note _____ wrote
about hating who _____ had become
hating who _____ had become wrote damaged goods
relative to who _____ had been and wanted
a cycle of song, a mirror
how things attract and the relative
positioning as the guilty _____
what comes nearer to _____
that's what one can hear
what _____ had witnessed to write damaged goods
asking for forgiveness if _____ could
building a barricade around _____ 's heart
nailed shut in a dark rut
no _____ wants to hear the depressed cycle of song
unromanticized, unrealized second half
in _____ 's pocket a nail apron and Pacific surf
hidden the shame of _____

V.

We fought over the beach:

“Stinson is too sharky.”

“No it’s not.”

After the attack, I can’t remember if you apologized.

VI.

“I feel like a big bowl of fuck.”

Grief soundtrack:

*“...People on their way to work said, ‘Baby what
did you expect?’
Gonna burst into flame...”*

VII.

An unspoken agreement means you agree.

VIII.

We saw each other every so often
and called to check in.

It goes without saying.

An icy wonderland – I left you a message since then.

(Didn't I?)

IX.

Bad batch of drugs, I imagined
In the afterlife we'll laugh at the mistake
Awake to a day without you.

But there was a note.

One's own blood-relation.
Reflexive. Storming the Bastille.
To make one's self ready.
One's own man, attendant servant, self.
Prince, seclude, secret, seduction, separate, sever.
Apart, without.

You had a choice, asshole, why didn't you realize that?

X.

Mama's little baby loves short'nin', short'nin',

Mama's little baby loves short'nin' bread

I'd have given you \$\$, if I'd had it

Dad said you were a taker

but misunderstood

For my part, I picture you in the surf

Finger out to the capitalists

A toasted bagel and cream cheese with an extra hot cup of tea

still trying to date the waitress

XI.

disassociated from

life became too difficult

pathetic and true (must've been)

some part of you felt this

so Rome wasn't built in a day
but was pillaged that quickly

ravaged and left to ruin

its glory around

in small glimpses, unexpected places

a column, a statue, law of nature, ray of light through perfected
window glass

this is how the day begins without you

A photo of Duncan
and
a quote will be posted here....