

milagros

even in sleep I dream of watering :
 greywater sluiced out of the bucket's mouth
back of my neck burnt in the sun

brown water to flood cracks & tiny
 shoots to press aside earth : an
unpredictable , a phase transition : a new thing

when I need help now I ask for help
 not all my ways are diseased any more
not all that glitters is pathology

& yet my heart still ruffles & trills when I lie
 on my left side to hold you : this may be
the break : the riff that takes me out , fails first

so this is what it's like you say in astonishment
 sit weakly up in your bathrobe
cough : after a few minutes go back to bed

when somewhere between Heathrow & Logan
 the flu became pneumonia : now the tips of your
fingers are violet & your chest is full of rain

you get it now what it will feel like : that
 a world can shrink & circumference contract
to this town this street this house

your bedroom : bed : body : mind :
 the pinprick of consciousness only a monitor can read :
the moment when a point becomes a line

in the restaurant a mother points to her full plate
 of pasta to ask a daughter
do you want to take this home : she shakes her head *no*

& I push back from the table with hard stones inside
 me: like I've swallowed
one by one a bagful of gold coins

my father shotgunned a ratsnake
 coiled up torpid in cold musty hay
nest-box in the henhouse

cut it open to save an egg
 still visible : its single bulge swallowed whole
pulled out instead an intact golf ball

what the snake must have wondered
 as he felt an unyielding plastic go
slowly : slowly down

on the bad nights I can only stomach
 plain yogurt soda water dry biscuits : you
forgive & cool me : let me be okay

I go to bed hungry & am
 awakened : slaked by poems
moonslant low across the sky

stars like milagros hung : silver
 from
silent pines