

Welcome

1. An Emotion
2. Plural Noun
3. Adjective

Welcome

if you believe nothing is always what's left

after a while, as I did,

If you believe you have this collection

of ungiven gifts, as I do (right here

behind the silence and the averted eyes)

If you believe an afternoon can collapse

into strange privacies--

how in your backyard, for example,

the _____ of _____ can be suddenly

overwhelming,

and in the distance

the clear goddamn of thunder

personal, like a voice,

If you believe there's no correct response

to death, as I do; that even in grief

(where I've sat making plans)

there are Adjective corners of joy

If your body sometimes is a light switch

in a house of insomniacs

If you can feel yourself straining

to be yourself every waking minute

If, as I am, you are almost smiling . . .

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