

## Broken Poems, Fixed

[source text from [www.digitalprose.com/?node=brokenpoem](http://www.digitalprose.com/?node=brokenpoem)  
[ed. note: site is gone as of 6 Aug. 2011]

1.

I think of you  
as you float  
among land  
mines

on your side  
of the

“I guess everything  
has to die”, you said.  
The groundhog lay in the street,  
crushed by Goodyear.  
Independence

Day was nigh.  
“The trees  
need trimmed”, mother told you,  
handed you shears  
wet with the faith  
of her palms.  
You cut up flowers instead,  
thought how pretty they  
looked in pieces,  
how they might kill your

rise again  
and take  
vengeance on your

2.

Is that your  
final  
answer?

I have  
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no need

to understand,  
you said.

3.

...in two dimensions.  
It becomes  
a more convoluted  
structure.  
Over and over I write until it folds  
up, folds in, upon it  
self.

I can't  
hold onto this compass  
round my neck,  
read me degrees,  
co-ordinates,  
just sit here  
and listen to the same song,  
the same  
sick friend,  
drive down to Brunswick  
to see her  
and wait.

4.

all those evenings spent  
brushing her hair when  
you could have been alone,  
skiing in the mountains.

5.

intimacy  
is when other  
people are  
close enough to  
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6.

the big apple  
                          ain't  
nothin' but a restaurant.

7.

but only by minutes  
                  as though the mind  
were a second.

The beautiful blindness  
of change, the sound

of a coin's rattle  
on the counter,  
followed by  
                  the white cane.

8.

gets bigger.  
                  the bear is  
absent

9.

there wasn't much more to  
                  several years apart.

You have the red plate  
special, your imaginary  
girlfriend orders nothing  
but coffee, endless amounts  
of coffee.

                  your story is not yet  
dry, the papers too eager.  
Copy runs in the gutter,  
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sinks through sewer grates.

only four lines survived:  
“I just

+ people don't

live with

anyone else.”

## Celery Store

pain dimensions in solid  
state maker nautical  
Sheridan happening lout.  
Praise arch maytag  
wicker hunters in key-  
stone willy-nilly bathtub  
comprehension terror  
battened silicon waifs.  
Alkaline dairy fuel in limbo,  
crashed at bains, sauce locks.

## Local Anesthetic

There's nothing on TV but Joel  
Osteen again and the cat sits  
on your arm until you have  
nothing below the top half  
of your bicep. This will make it  
difficult to fix yourself a peanut  
butter and gold sandwich for lunch.

## Must Be Collapse

Squandered. New echoes of emigrant  
architecture fling corrosive handled  
watchguard outlast. Stream down  
from ovens, hammer wretched  
ambivalent watchlist lothario. Scream  
radical parsnip invest crooked, attach  
Dutch lakefront confounded hairball.  
What needs scaffold oblates candied  
mealworms, rates heavy castoff muffins.

Yakutsk dealership calls beyond  
the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel, weakens covalence  
in transit, we fall apart when we fall  
together. Spin out from planes  
of trees, dimensions of dunes, infinite  
number line of small talk invested  
in seven drinks and time to get  
your coat it's coming down nails  
and extraterrestrials out there.

Parched away from the dead speak  
amazed outside awake aware unlived.

## Phoenicians

The blade of the scalpel  
in flames. We thrust it  
into Thor Heyerdahl. Wind  
rises, curves, converges  
plays with fire until  
everything we are, everything  
we were, the man, the raft,  
our bodies, all consumed

ashes drift off the coast  
of Peru, only the fish  
to see what may rise  
from them, if anything



## Roundabout

skimming the lake  
over time over cream  
the harmonics  
the minor fifths

resonance

this is your beast  
and you need to learn  
to play it  
until the rain  
comes down around you  
but you remain dry

## Strange Agent

Pickled hops westend hasten  
hang of lily farro slip, aback  
to lack react. The gaucho  
hematite function against  
relentless heaven, ridiculous  
Horatio, wen even dun relation  
penchants redacted corduroy  
masks of acid foolery bel wit.  
Standish metal frequencies  
aghast get flaccid, advance,  
march flak, loose back, yew  
willow daisy ruin tureen based  
fowl concoction bullion  
emigré. Remixed effluence  
amidst a witch of flicker nod.