

## the contextual encyclopedia for all the world's gales

did you too write a poem? yes you did I saw  
when you lifted your head and the light touched you  
first upon your cheekbone and then again when your face kept  
lifting itself skyward  
your neck

•

in a dream he comes to me  
and says I am sorry  
but I had to go  
there was a lion Anis  
and the lion was eating me

•

say they had found more of you than just your shoes and your feet  
not even your whole body but say even just your legs  
and if your legs were thick enough would I keep one  
to hold my umbrellas in the corner by my front door  
and to see every time i came home

or maybe if your leg were just the size it is still  
or as there is no longer *still* when it comes to you, *was*  
your legs the size it was the spring i saw you last in the parking lot of starseed's  
the diner off of 35 at 31st in southeast austin and which were the same thinness  
they had been since we first met in freshman science class  
—would i then just hollow one out so it could hold say  
only one very thin umbrella  
or a walking stick perhaps  
or better yet a long skinny precious sword  
that i could use to open letters every time one arrived  
from the kingdom of the dead  
bearing your garbled and scrawled name across it  
written as if spoken with a mouth full of rocks  
i would recognize it in any alphabet  
and because i have missed your stories so much these last ten years  
i would long to read in my house  
about where you have been traveling ever since you left this world

•

in some world of these worlds that we do and do not traverse  
you and i are maybe married in some strange but perfect marriage  
perhaps how a tree is married to an earth how the branch married to the fig  
instead of how a tree is married to a sky  
or the fig married to the hunger  
and maybe some day we'll be  
my atoms and your atoms  
together moving in the same space of the same body  
or because i do not know what happens

to the body to the spirit to the science when a person kills themselves  
maybe you and i already are

•

how long can the human heart live  
out there on the boats  
when no one comes  
when one is alone  
and one stays alone  
because no one comes

how long does the human heart live

out there

on

out there there are

boats

and no one came

to you

i never came to you

i suppose then the answer is 29 years

•

i had no idea how much frost had come  
it was only after i started to thaw  
that i begin to see  
how much water  
i was made of

even in winter so much of me a river  
like the one you and i both grew up beside  
you on one side of it and me on the other  
sort of like how it is now  
you on that side of it and me on this one  
how it is once again  
how it will always be