

HEART **BREAK**

Composed at Hidden Falls, St. Paul, on the
morning of August 25, 2009

Kraken Press, St. Paul

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The Blind Glutton

The caterpillar had eaten all the leaves
on the bough.

Oh!, cried the sparrow, you have killed the tree!
How am I supposed to know,
the caterpillar cried,
can't you see I don't have eyes.

Dream of The Cigarette Butt

I have ambitious aspirations,
the cigarette butt announced.

The toadstool said to him,
I don't think that's practical

The Man With a Hole

There was a man with a hole in him.

When he showed it to people,

they said to him,

That doesn't look right at all.

But don't all men have holes?

the man asked.

Yes, they said, but you should really

have that looked at.

Hopscotch

I knew in an instant
she was there, and there, and there
The being small, under radar
where love clammers in the umber
We take turns like Merlin
inside every creature
No membranes, no padlocks
to hinder the leaping
The mole makes castles underfoot
Crane sharpens bill on a log
A duck cannot fly without flapping

Mosquitoes explode like kisses in the air
And suddenly everything
waves its hands and says hi

The Fountain

Families spread their blankets
on the grass
Every forty minutes the fountain
goes off and sprays
like a carousel of rhinestones
Mommy look, a boy says,
I tasted it, it's salty – and greasy.
Mother kleenexes a smudge
from his cheek,
Don't you know it's
a fountain of tears?

The Cast-Iron Skillets

God says, I need you to do something for me
and hands you two-red hot frying pans.

Twenty years later you run into him again.

He says, are you still holding those things?

Hey, you can set one of them down.

The Man With No Arms And No Legs

A man with no arms and no legs
is grinning ear to ear.

What have you got to be cheerful about
he is asked.

I like how the light is playing on my face
I have a feeling it's my lucky day

The Miracle

The man in bad straits
had prayed for a miracle.
A jumbo jet landed
on his house

The Man Made Out Of Glass Who Keeps Breaking

Every motion he makes
some new part breaks off
first a finger
then a hand

He wonders whose blood that is
forming on the edge

He keeps breaking and breaking
without losing mass

The spit bubbles
between his lips

Why doesn't someone say

stop stumbling about like a dope
All this pointless breathing
and acting surprised
He is an item of scientific interest
Making rainbows out of prisms
Don't love me he says
it's unsafe when I shatter

The Mighty Chord

See how lifting one finger
changes everything

A door opens, something
new and unidentified is there

Do you hear it?

Do you hear?

