

## Woman (reading)

La Dispute

You in the living room  
You on a Tuesday afternoon  
A breeze seen when the curtains move

You by the window with both feet up on the couch  
Where you sit and you read and I watch you

From the office the sunlight frames your silhouette  
I think of lighting fireworks, I think of pirouettes  
I idly write down observations on the scene  
Like do the blueprints name the rooms alone?  
Do we name them on our own?  
We hardly live in there

You with a book propped on your knees  
A breeze seen in your coffee steam

I'm in the office thinking back to rules of poetry  
It's fourteen lines, the last two rhyme, what does  
pentameter mean?

You in the living room  
Legs bent at forty-five degrees

I write AB AB, try to find your rhyme scheme  
I look for objects on the desk with which to sculpt  
your image best  
What would I name this could I paint it "Woman  
(reading)?" "Girl (at rest)?"

I remember it so well watching you shifting your  
weight, turning the page, I can see it all there  
Inside a living room where only I live and never go in  
A role in name alone

And I pause where I am for a second when I hear your  
name  
Sometimes I think I see your face in improbable places  
Do those moments replay for you?  
When I'm suddenly there and then won't go away  
When you're sitting in the living room reading for the  
afternoon  
Do you put your book down look and try to find me  
there?

Sometimes I think of all the people who lived here  
before us  
How the spaces in the memories you make change the room  
from just blueprints  
To the place where you live

When you leave here  
When you go from a home  
You take all that you own but the memories echo

On hardwood floor in the living room  
Tore the carpet the scratches below that we found

And the wine stain on the couch  
We got drunk and decided we'd still try to move it  
around  
And I can't tell what the difference is between the  
ones that we made and the ones that we didn't make  
They all conjure images still  
Where you sit and you read in the sunlight aware that I  
watch

And I live alone now  
Save for the echoes

I live alone now  
Save for the echoes