

## Love In Two Parts

Erin McKeown

"there's hope in poetry, comfort in fiction  
like the voice of walt whitman, for example.

i have noticed something  
you will have noticed it too  
we like truth with lies  
black with white  
we are the virgin and the whore  
you will have noticed this too

so i am led to say purely for example, purely for survival  
and speaking of course from my own experience  
when i'm drunk it's easy  
when i'm sober i try not to love you so hard  
will not love you so hard

you will have noticed this too,  
for you were on the other side.

in a san francisco loft you couldn't pay for  
i could feel your heart beat through the floor boards  
i waved my hope around like a cheap flag  
whose colors had faded  
whose emblem was laughable

what is whiskey in the morning but a clear path to the door  
what would uncle walt say to the silent floorboard?  
hope?  
hope  
"