

Kyle McCord

Someday I Will Love Kyle McCord

Like I love this slug of peach
sake someday I will fold you
firmly as this rice paper
and carry you in denim
oh to be this intimate
this empathy I feel will extend
even to my severed half
self warped by the coy pond
I will be the gentleness of the gut
parsed from the fish will glint
radiant as this meat not smudged
by innards I will practice
generosity on this scale

someday I will love this insurgent
rush of blood which garrisons the scab
you can't stop working between
thumb and pointer I will measure
your compulsions like sesame
and I want to love the patient
preparation wrapping leafy skin
to bind the whole
oh house of molded gluten
ginger primed into flaring
geraniums I want to love
the temporality of this dwelling
this voice which reminds
it will not stay tomorrow but
here is a box to remember
here what's to be paid

because after all we must account
and in this moment I do
and I do and I do.

What the Good Word Is

The salamander you find in your work boot
the mason jar you put it in and stuff
into midnight of your satchel the impossibly
old Chevy firing to life sputtering then
the copse of plastic white tails and timber
wolves the town naturalist arranges
in a sort of dance

how they remind you you are alive—
the salamander's dartings you are more
than the thunk of the nail gun
more than February sky filamented
as divorce papers more than the dog
making a mess of someone else's yard
as you watch it you eat ham on rye
set the jar in your palm overhead
a man settles a beam in the sky
of some other family's shelter

you could open it if you wanted
let the predatory world rush in

in another life
your wife rises early in nightgown
to brew coffee and watch the raccoons
she taps their outlines you know
the good word she wants to utter
to you to the creatures sifting your life
you have memorized that view
the grooves of glass she feels for an edge.



Kyle McCord is from Des Moines, IA. He is the author of six books, including *X-Rays and Other Landscapes* (Trio House 2019). His work has recently appeared in *AGNI*, *Boston Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *TriQuarterly*.