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Apartment Walls

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Apartment Walls

Melissa Dang

It is only a wall
Color makes no difference
To the voices on the other side
Speaking and interjecting.

It's not eavesdropping
If the noise is unavoidable;
Headboard thudding
Every ten seconds.

It is only a wall
But I know the woman below
Is pregnant with her boyfriend's
Brother's baby.

It's their secret
Locked up and rotting inside.
One can only hope
Infidelity is not genetic.

It is only a wall
Made to separate us
Keep the neutrality
Pulsating with nonchalance.

Stranger's unwanted pity
Cringing at the sound
Of a family who's been

It is only a wall
Boxing in our bodies
But our voices permeate
Like insufferable perfume.

The woman next to me
Shoves a chair underneath her door
It's double locked with a bolt
She doesn't sleep till 3 A.M.

It is only a wall
But our emotions seep
Underneath and through
Till we can feel each other listening.

I know he's fifteen and unconfused
But even if I pretended,
I know it's not a hammer nailing
A photograph of an understanding
father.

It is only a wall
No more different than standing
Face to face
With our eyes closed.

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