

1986

Bad Heart

Robert Dana

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Dana, Robert. "Bad Heart." *The Iowa Review* 16.1 (1986): 37-37. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.3294>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Bad Heart

So you walk along nowhere—
anybody's beach—the air
a rank chowder of low tide
and you're happy. You'd like
to sew yourself a shirt
out of sunlight. You want
to tell your wife you love
her. And you wait for the
telephone in your ear to ring.
For an hour. For a week. Is
abstraction a net or a sieve,
Angel? Is an idea a kiss?
A shape such as maples
make unfurling, or willows
falling? Or a steady river
taking up silt and stone,
showing you in a knot or curl,
depth and speed of channel.

And what does it show
if a Boat-tail still rudders
in the bucking cross-wind of
your head, where you put it
one green middle-western
afternoon ten years ago,
when you were younger,
and she was very young?