1983

Blind People

Jane Poston

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/ijls

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0743-2747.1056

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Journal of Literary Studies by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
sometimes he looks
at me and his eyes
are very embarrassing I
want to tell him sunsets
aren't what they're cracked up to be Rembrandt's
a big joker
so I take him to the zoo
and the elephants like me
are too careful with him
and the lions
don't make a noise
for fear of frightening him
or maybe the lions
don't want to give themselves away sometimes
he wants to spit
in the Royal Gorge
and follow it all the way
down he wants to know
what it's like
to stumble across the unexpected beautiful thing,
for example the particular violet
fringing the grocer's thumbnail well
sometimes blind people think
they are invisible
but it is blind people
who hear a dime falling
from the Empire State Building if
it is the one
that would hurt you
*an inaudible whistle* he says
like a bat going home from long hours
of avoiding things *listen* he says
it is the emergency sound
of your safety why
yes an inaudible whistle i say
and the top of my pate
tingling as when one imagines
a dime falling
skillfully there.