

## Poems by Tom Montag

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### FROM LESS

From less  
to least.

From where  
you can-

not see  
the stars,

the stars  
cannot

see you.  
Whose blood

will bleed?  
What fire

will burn?  
*The loss,*

he says,  
*the loss.*

### DEAD COYOTE

Coyote dead  
at the edge

of woods - so  
near and yet

so far. Open,  
darkness; invite

the spirit in.

## THE STONE

One rolled the stone  
back up the hill.

One studied it,  
to see what it meant.

One found it took  
him back to childhood,

to the stone pile behind  
the shed, where the sun's

soaked heat lasts until  
the darkness comes.

## TOP OF THE RIDGE

The top of the ridge,  
where sky is. Our feet  
on the earth, which

trembles. This would be  
someone's horizon,  
the edge which separates

us from winged things,  
birds, angels, dreams.  
This would be where

we stand and try to  
grasp the wind. Where we  
try to hold the earth,

the sky, sunset, trees.  
All the things we've loved.  
All we have loved and lost.

## LIGHT TO DARKNESS

Light to darkness -- who's to say when?  
Not on or off. Not line or edge.

Not yes or no, one or zero.  
God knows when we lose we win,

knows when each life ends, begins,  
and ends again. Light to darkness

is an easy leap then, my friend.

## GREY SKY

Grey sky. The sun  
tries to find

a thousand  
million greens.

The poet  
tries to sing

some praise.  
He thinks he can

go home from here.  
He thinks he can

begin again.

AS MUCH

before  
as after.

Why think  
loss is

one and  
not the

other.

IF GOD

If God were the Grand  
Unified Theory

then I might believe.  
Light is particle

and wave, presence and  
absence.

Loss is what  
falls from the far stars

whose dust blesses us,  
our unknowingness.

That I might believe.

## WISDOM

I am beginning  
to know things that are  
not meant to be known.

Sky comes apart in  
the lace of branches.  
Behind the sun, sullen

darkness and a black  
wind. All the small things  
broken. All our hopes.

The last sound we make  
going into silence.

## MORNING

The light  
we reach

for reaches  
for us.