

if a man is only as good as his word,  
then i want to marry a man with a vocabulary like yours.

the way you say “dicey” and “delectable” and “octogenarian”  
in the same sentence—  
that really turns me on,  
the way you describe the oranges in your backyard  
using “anarchistic” and “intimate” in the same breath.

i would follow the legato and staccato of your tongue  
wrapping around your diction  
until listening became more like dreaming,  
and dreaming became more like kissing you.

i want to jump off the cliff of your voice  
into the suicide of your stream of consciousness.  
i want to visit the place in your heart where the wrong words die.  
i want to map it out with a dictionary and points of brilliant light  
until it looks more like a star chart than a strategy for communication.  
i want to see where your words are born.  
i want to find a pattern in their astrology.

i want to memorize the script of your seductions.  
i want to live in the long-winded epics of your disappointments,  
in the haiku of your epiphanies.  
I want to know all the names you’ve given your desires.  
i want to find my name among them,  
‘cause there is nothing more wrecking-sexy than the right word.  
i want to thank whoever told you there was no such thing as a synonym.  
i want to throw a party for the heart-break that turned you into a poet.

and if it is true that a man is only as good as his word  
then, sweet jesus,  
let me be there the first time you are speechless,  
and all your explosive wisdom  
becomes a burning ball of sun in your throat,  
and all you can bring yourself to utter is oh god,  
oh, god....

untitled because no title is good enough

**dic·ey**

adj. **dic·i·er, dic·i·est**

Involving or fraught with danger or risk:

“an extremely dicey future on a brave new world of liquid nitrogen, tar, and smog”

**de·lec·ta·ble**

adj. 1) Greatly pleasing; delightful.;

2) Greatly pleasing to the taste; delicious. See Synonyms at delicious.

*Delectable both to behold and taste.,*

*“the delectable Miss Haynes”*

**oc·to·ge·nar·i·an**

adj. Being between 80 and 90 years of age.

n.

A person between 80 and 90 years of age.

**an·ar·chism**

n. 1) The theory or doctrine that all forms of government are oppressive and undesirable and should be abolished.; 2) Active resistance and terrorism against the state, as used by some anarchist.; 3) Rejection of all forms of coercive control and authority: “He was inclined to anarchism; he hated system and organization and uniformity” (Bertrand Russell).

**in·ti·mate**

adj. 1) Marked by close acquaintance, association, or familiarity.;

2) Relating to or indicative of one’s deepest nature: intimate prayers.;

3) Essential; innermost: the intimate structure of matter.;

4) Marked by informality and privacy: an intimate nightclub.;

5) Very personal; private: an intimate letter.;

6) Of or involved in a sexual relationship.

n.

A close friend or confidant.

**Ne·tt·i·fee**

adj 1) dicey; 2) delectable; 3) future octogenerian; 4) anarchistic; 5) intimate.

# mindy nettifee

Mindy Nettifee is a twenty-something writer currently residing in a tree-house-like apartment in Santa Ana, CA. She spends most of her days writing grants, practicing denial over the current political situation, and teaching kids to read and make large messy art projects. In her free time, she is one of the directors of Tebot Bach's Five Penny Poets. She has served on three National Poetry Slam teams and coached the Orange County/Long Beach slam team in 2001 and 2002. She has toured nationally and internationally while dodging student loan officers. Her most recent book is a collection of poems entitled "Divine Intervention."

