They Say It's Better to Have Loved and Lost Than to Never Have Loved at All

Dear voice box shaped like a violin's neck now thickening with T,

I can't say I've ever loved you unless love

means missing the teeth I gave to the tooth fairy

for how naturally they left my mouth

unless love is a polaroid and not a reel you can rewind

or repeat. I dreamed I was flat like a new sheet of paper.

I dreamed my voice was a bear, or a basement, or even

my father saying hello. If you say goodbye

to something you never loved, is it still called loss. If

you say goodbye to something you've never been is it still

called transition. A cow is kept in a cage the size of its body and called

veal. A cage is caught inside an animal and called a body. It is better

to be safe than sorry, safe like triple washed ecoli spinach

safe like ovaries in Texas or Arkansas or Kansas

safe like giving a knife to your sadness. If you give

a mouse a cookie it will ask for a syringe, a binder that bathes

your body in bright bliss but only if you bear

the bite of it all day. If you give a mouse a bite it will ask

you to say its name right, and loudly. If you give a mouse a right

you better teach it how to miss it when its taken

back away. If you give a mouse a way to be a mouse and not a foot

or a sound or a slice of mud, don't ask it to be ok with a voice that squeaks

and bells like a completely different season

don't ask if it likes its cookie just let it sit

on the greener side, having lost what it did not love, not safe

but definitely not sorry.

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