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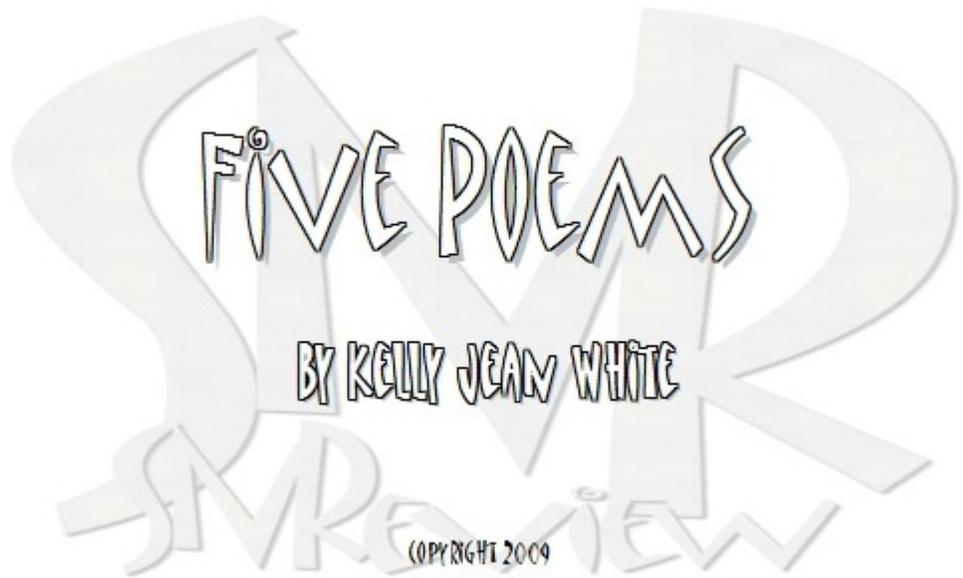
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### Desertion

So much invasion, and so little to see—  
in a moment you might put on your hat,  
toss your newspaper into the fireplace,  
empty your waterbottle into the sink.  
You might abandon even the remote  
control. Take your shirt  
from the back of the chair  
at the head of the table. Pack  
your dictionary. So little to take  
with you. Nothing of use to leave  
behind. The empty room full  
of your need  
to be heard.

### Dessert

two	what one said to the other
knives	in the dish drainer
crossed	yesterday's ashes
on	his empty hands
a	flame that echoed
white	her face
lace	a brittle dance
table	torn and carved
cloth	on the edge of the stairs

### Nineteen

lives in a typical  
guy house

refrigerator  
with nothing but

condiments  
and a Chinese food carton  
age and origin unknown

conversation revolves around beer  
and the deeper  
philosophical questions

he keeps a double mattress on the floor  
with a single pokemon sheets  
stretched to a diagonal near fit  
and a very old  
pacman pillow

the entertainment center  
is state of the art

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### **Oversight**

Mother presents  
with request for utility form completion

Physician aware

Records clerk brings chart to physician for review  
Chart documents poorly controlled asthma  
MD requests that parent wait while MD completes exam of scheduled patient  
Mother expresses anger at medical records clerk  
Attempts to follow clerk into medical record room

Physician aware

MD repeats request that parent wait while MD completes exam of sick child  
Mother threatens clerk with bodily harm  
Staff request clinic manager dial 911

Physician aware

MD requests mother wait until care of current patient is completed  
Clinic manager escorts parent to an exam room  
Mother co-operative with physician as form is completed  
Staff requests improved security protocol

Mother fails to bring asthmatic child to office for care as requested by physician

Union grievance filed against manager by clinical staff for failure to dial 911

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### **Zen**

I was the medical student on orthopedic surgery.  
It was a big case: neurosurgery, orthopedics  
and pediatric surgery all involved; a child  
with myelomeningocele, respiratory compromise  
secondary to worsening scoliosis. He lay on his  
left side. One group was to enter the chest,

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one the back, one the abdomen. The first incisions  
were made by general surgery (the abdomen)  
and ortho (the back) then anesthesia spoke: dropping  
pressures, irregular rhythm, flat line flat line transfuse  
shock shock. Bill Jo, left-handed, four foot ten, stood  
across from me, quiet, good-humored; for four hours  
he held the heart in his hands, a bag of worms. Pump.  
Pump. Pump. I carried warm saline to lavage  
the intestines. Neurosurgery never scrubbed.  
We stood under the hot OR lamps as fall light  
grayed to black. Bill told quiet jokes in unaccented  
English. The first board certified Korean American  
pediatric surgeon. Ortho left. Bill squeezed the heart.  
Again. Again. Competent. Steady. Gave me a turn.  
The faintest stirring movement. That bag of worms.  
Defibrillate. Jolt. And it did. On the eleventh try.  
Sinus rhythm. On rounds the next day the child  
sat up, CNS fully intact, told us all about kindergarten.

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A New Hampshire native, **Kelley Jean White** studied at Dartmouth College and  
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