

2001

Good Turns (Rhino 2001)

Sharon Black, *University of Pennsylvania*



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons CC BY-NC International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

GOOD TURNS

If I saw you waiting for the R-3
or standing in line at the convenience store
and you had a lot of stuff hanging out
of your mouth it would be easy
to approach—no small talk to bobble,
no strained exchange, it would simply be
a matter of wiping with one hand
into the other what didn't belong
and you would see this not as an act
of compassion but communication
especially when I return with water
in a paper cone to tilt into your mouth.
You would do the same for me.
This I know because once I forgot to breathe
and then I forgot *how* to.
I was becoming the color
of a really nasty bruise until you
showed me how to draw the world in—
tin cans, balloon skins, billboards and all—
then to let it go, even waterfalls
and cubism, you started me up again
until it got easy for me and I didn't have to
think about love all the time.