

Emily Severance

In memory of Dave Kmenta

Death is Just a Sudden Move

There's less to mourn when you're not gone forever.
How can anyone be gone that long? No amount of grief
Can fill such a gap.

So, you've taken off to Seattle with everyone else,
Popped back down to Mexico,
Or stolen off to a time share cottage in Switzerland

And I'm left to mourn the localized
Moments you're missing: a Shakey
Jake rock-and-roll hello, a Saturday
Morning slice of Wildflour pizza.
And since there's stuff there I can't
Get here it all evens out in the end.

None of us can be everywhere at once
I'm not good
at keeping in touch either.

I should think of you less,
Get used to you being gone.
One of these days I'll run into you again;
An MLA conference twenty years from now
attending a session on Joyce.

Emily Severance has a BA from The University of Michigan (where she won the freshman poetry prize and a Hopwood prize for poetry) and an MFA in studio art from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.