

Timothy Gager

The Night Wind

A balled up piece of paper
windblown down a street

seen from a window
level to street lights

It looks dark if you don't sleep.
Night and love, wisdom like suicide

methods shuffled, a life of cards
rippled like a tarp covering a roof

needing repair. The mattress
broke in love, I stayed too

long in the game
a donkey waits for

the Queen of hearts, bent
at the corners, the crinkled

sheets choke my feet,
killed by mistakes.

A pair of geese fly strongly,
mate for life she said. Once

pain is small, fragile like
a seagull's tiny wing bone

snaps in a storm, it can be saved.
So I think.

Timothy Gager is the author of eleven books of short fiction and poetry. His latest, *The Thursday Appointments of Bill Sloan*, (Big Table Publishing) is his first novel. He hosts the successful Dire Literary Series in Cambridge, Massachusetts for over thirteen years and is the co-founder of Somerville News Writers Festival. His work appears in over 300 journals, of which nine have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. His work has been read on National Public Radio.