



For Amy

Not with indifference,
but with—distance,
she talked about the attack
with the eye contact
and the gestures comfortable people use
to show how comfortable they can be.

She talked about denial in the past tense
and forgiveness the shape of blankets

And of a small girl simply given
not given up.

But when she got up
and walked off
she left behind a solid naked strip
where the grass was picked clean
beneath those moving hands.

—*John O'Brien, Vice-President of Academic Affairs*