

CRYING TO JOHN

After sex
That was offered
Not desired
So much
Intimacy
He felt compelled
To undertake
Somewhat by
His own impetus
The prurience of his body
Concomitantly
Because as a man
He knows
When offered
He is obliged to accept

It was
Without
Connection
It was
An atavistic reaction
Corpus delicti
He grunted
Effort undertaken
Not to feel
Much more
Beyond the longing of his loins
Thrusting away
She lay there like a cadaver
Whimpering

Emotionally detached
Both of them
Eventually he came
And slackened upon her
She enshrouded him in her arms
He lay away transiently
Then extricated himself
His head propped on a pillow
Becoming aware
Of the patter of rain on the window pane
He heard iced weeping
He looked and saw her crying
When she noticed
That he noticed

She spoke
Telling him
Of a rape
And a pregnancy
And an abortion
She began sobbing
Her father
Beacon unrestrained
The street lamp outside
Cast shadows
Of raindrops
As they trickled down
The panes of glass
Over her
And the room behind her
It seemed as if the entire world cried
As she cried

—Daniel McNulty