

Lou Schmidt's Paradox

A BODY BACK AND FORTH

a body back and forth Lou Schmidt's
story—his matter runs hot and
cold night and day
 he don't
wanna go he don't wanna stay
die or come true warm color
red cool color blue

AFTER OR BEFORE

after or before

Torey, Annabelle, his daughters—
no kidding—Papa Lou loves
his two parts of a gravity
wave

 he gave his word wearing
Lord Kelvin's cold weather gear

Torey narrates Codey who
narrates Lexie who mate-matches
a machine nothing else is
before or after

Annabelle narrates in a
vegetative star-state
many fields fill her
silences

 many folds
shape her worlds
 everything else
is after or before

LOU SCHMIDT AS PLANCKIAN

Lou Schmidt as Planckian pieces: one
of which will shop for roast chicken
another the destiny of helium

Lou does not need a body
 .11784 nanoseconds
 after the Big Bang occupying
 a probability point infinitesimal
 as you can think
 one small quantum bubble popping
 is Lou too

he orders coffee
from a barista younger and better
looking version of himself

lives in a black box
of radioactive gases

Lou stares at his cell phone,
floats in the primordial soup
that will become a mountain
in the ring of fire
burning towards
thermal equilibrium

LOU LIVES

Lou lives on a wireless network
(not counting transmitters
wired to the grid) near
dis-integrated landfill
circuit decay—counting germanium—

the infinite cause is illegible
the material cause is the coarse
mortal body (with digits)

on the formal cause Lou says,
normalization will kill salvation/ask
Tonya Early
formally ill salvation

HEY LOU

Hey Lou What's the meaning of Tonya Early?

Lou responds sotto voce *What's the meeting
with Tonya Early?* then sings out loud

*Tonya oh Tonya in the flowered dress
the sun is early oh Tonya
I need a dram of rest
one more dram before the meeting Tonya
and not a drop less*

YESTERDAY (YEARS FROM NOW)

yesterday (years from now)
Tonya, a monosophyte,
becomes bored (though she bears
all physical laws) she shoots
states down like electrons in
a silicon line

Lou is the devoted janitor who cleans
up her mess

Annabelle competes for space
she is or is not electro-
chemical substrate

(for she loves Tonya too)

LOU DISSEMBLED

Lou—dissembled and
assembled by oncology—
now he's a news-packet
concerning a testicle for
the modern male

Lou feels the biopsy result
will wait for him
as he is intestate
and in transit

LOU DIES

Lou dies
before his father is born
comes into death's possession
as an Alexandrian youth

in the full flames of Plotinus—
this volume by a fourteenth-
century transistor—Lou Schmidt's
vellum is stolen or sold he wrote

it or not he spoke it or not
he was it or not

(Tonya Early knows
the sum of it)