

Cold Sore Lip Red Coat — Hoa Nguyen

What if I ate too much food there being
Not enough money immigranty
And save all the ketchup
 packets George
Carlin record on the record player saying
how many ways you can curse and they
are all funny (small brown bird with a black
neck and a beak full of fluff for a nest)

The old joke: "How many feet
do you have?" Instead of
"How tall are you?"

This looks like joy a joke
who looked at you and laughed

Look at the map upside down so that south
Is north and north is south
 it's the other
way around because it's the commonly agreed to
thing (visual language of the colonizer) or
snowful awful tearful wishful

Ficus carica sonnet
—Hoa Nguyen

Cinched belt tugged tight around the heart
5 or 6 aerial roots dangling A strangler fig

Do homeless ancestors live inside the tree?
Child of noise Hold the loosened ends You

may miss the moon or fall in love with it Embrace
ashes I too am far removed A thirst that wanders

thirsting And I could never ask the name of the boy
who died A baby boy who died but what could you do

and maybe words hang in sinew and care Writer
of dead words or living words and life's hammer

Encase the host tree and erase it I don't know
the folk songs on farms far from here The dead buried

and gone To dig the grave Who dug the graves
Darling The sea widens for you tonight and deepens

Autumn Poem 2012

—Hoa Nguyen

Call capable
a lemony
light & fragile

Time like a ball and elastic

so I can stop burning the pots

wondering yes electric stove

She is her but I don't reme
mber remember
the ashes I obsess She said

I was obsessed with
(not wanting to work with
ashes)

Mandible dream
says the street
& ash work

because the scorn
and ions long
there I wor I woke up
in the overlooked dark

I work
do that warp twistingly
wrap the dead

Black and white like the
long-dead starved pet rodent
eating the basement
curtains and peanut shells

I walk I wal
I walks down sometimes
why the advi

abide the advice was

not "Fair better"
but "Fail better"

Auto dish soap
 $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$
Coffee beans

Bake the golden things
Rust colors
Rust colors

Independence Day 2010

—Hoa Nguyen

Can be cracked or am that you didn't
consider me or I thought so
recovering in a nap You took the 4th
of July beers

In the movie
she was Asian and playing an Asian
part singing white on white in the white
room

I want to strum
or mask this day

Ask a question
of the large "picture" window
like why and why and also why
to think of the napalmed girl
in the picture