

HEATHER FULLER

from Dick Cheney's Heart: A Memoir

Chapter 2

the heart that jumps the track
is a lesson in walking against traffic

the door lady on Belair Road says speed is in this season
for your near-miss little constitutional

shotgun passenger delays gratification
mowing down the dirtbike undertow

no one said recovery was glamorous
and so we idled

*

pop quiz: who said
I am a very dangerous man.

Charles Manson or Dick Cheney?

in off-the-grid tribunals blood has its day
for the man with no pulse who lives centrifugal
crashing against inner chambers of

puppet hearts
prisons with no boundaries

DNRs for losers

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when the pit bulldog turned up
the DNA of a songbird

when a titer derailed an extradition

when Roland Park de-NIMBYed

your broken heart stopped
being a pathology

we learned to hold our liquor

Chapter 3

I woke up on the day of the transplant and

I wanted full disclosure on drones

I wanted cats to stop fucking

I wanted more income disparity at the clinic

I wanted an all-drug option (see Rod Smith, 'Poem')

I wanted to form a girl band with Tina Lynne & Phyllis

I wanted to de-bedazzle

I wanted to put the Fuller in Fullerton

I wanted more sex and less sext

I wanted more aphids

I wanted back-to-back reruns of *Oz*

I wanted to dogear ketamine in the Merck Manual

I wanted everybody to shut up about cicadas

and cherry blossoms

and beavers

I wanted a nonrefundable free pass

I wanted the war on drugs to stop at home [my home] (*ibid.*)

I wanted to like the Krispy Kreme stock ticker

I wanted to feed the badger

I wanted

...

I wanted to see a man about a heart

Chapter 4

your broken heart is a syncopated ride with
everyone's favorite reckless driver

which is to say no one's and have something left over
for roadside transgressions

the baby arsonists who light up stray pets and brothers
have more skeletons fossilized into vacant lot dreamtime
than the jury has hangups

which is to say justice must be served
on your own damn time

*

when I say ethernet I mean literally
there was a net of ether
drifting us to the big sleep undercover

we triaged the meth lab dogs in the open air

someone named the puppies after lipsticks
Ruby
Scarlet
Poppy

I asked my neighbor for his conspiracy
he said it was a long story but
it started with the foreman sliced in half
at Bethlehem Steel

then shutdown

and picket
scabs in the lifeline

docks idling on the union man's clock

*

the child grounded for roleplaying Omar
lifting jumbo pack of sunflower seeds
Ravens cap
box of Bic lighters

then redistributing along Lanvale

they called him bad for business

I said no
the kid has heart

Chapter 5

why do I have to be such a Dick?

the churchpeople simply wanted a moment
and maybe another prayer lifted up
cannot confuse us further

Michael Vick took his free pass and
read from a script about healing

around the same time the stink bug
became the new cucaracha

my neighbor asked if I could move my stinking motion sensor
so it would stop lighting up her stinking driveway
it was invading her stinking privacy

I took my sweet damn time it's true

*

the surgeon squares the heart to
the left sternal border

Chris bodyblocked a car to save a kitten
rotator cuff unspiraling

four muscles four tendons four nerves
levitate the arm to praise position

so much can go wrong in the crosshairs
meshes sinuses it's extraordinary
we talk to god at all

Chapter 6

my nurse practitioner told me a side effect
could be unusual thoughts

I said well that would be different

so many ways to say sorry
to a friend with birdshot in his heart

Dick Cheney [shooter] is my Stockholm
and my Mardi Gras

but what happened in Kenedy County didn't stay
in Kenedy County

*

the note on the porch was brief but unequivocal
*I think we messed up by putting the birds
back in the nest. Please meet me at the tree.
P.S. Can I hold a 20?*

there's no reason why a man with open heart
can't see another day

so many ways to say sorry

I watch birds
livestock for subtlety
signs patterns

bats for cross-pollination
crows for bioburden
error calculus in the food stream

so many ways to say sorry