

## Back-burning

If someone can carry a love  
letter longer than a love,  
still speaking what was

to what might have been,  
unanswerably, still  
jagged  
with dogged lovelust—

back-pocketed,  
back-burning—

then, God, is it alright  
if I write you in letters  
three at a time, your  
syllable one

I am relieved  
not to need  
when I believe?