

SOMETIMES THE JOURNAL HAS THE SAME

control over
me as certain
lovers it must
be attended
to kept up kept
secret. Must be
kept fresh no lies
but still glow with
magic sometimes
it seems a nuisance
a bore too demanding.
Impossible. Scary
hurting haunting
trivial. At other times
with out it it seems
I'm half a live

WHEN HE SAID HIS WIFE
EXPECTED HIM TO PERFORM

something in me clenched
like ice cubes in a
tray too long that seem
to shrink from what
touched them

SOMEWHERE NEAR MANNING BLVD

a lost ferret,
raccoon markings
isn't dangerous
will follow you
come up lick
you if you
see this ferret
dark brown legs
and tail call
465-2401

HOT SEPTEMBER MADONNA

her bikini shrinks
near the sprawling
elderberry. Light
tongues her thighs.
Sunday dissolves,
ice in iced tea.
Her skin smells
of baked apples.

FAT MADONNA

like a country
wanting to take
over spreading
across borders
because of its
own insecurity

EYESTRAIN MADONNA

can't handle
what's close

HANGOVER MADONNA

the cat's fur
on the blue
quilt's too
loud

-- Lyn Lifshin

Niskayuna NY