

Marriage of Death

Place this ring upon your finger
 In this marriage of death
 We both know
 We must be together
 No one else will have us
 We were just having fun
 Not considering what we'd done
 But now consequences come
 We must pay
 For our careless day
 And now we're doomed together
 So place this ring upon your finger
 For we'll be going together
 So this marriage of death
 Is what we deserve now
 And we've learned from our mistakes
 Even though it's now too late
 But we were just having fun
 Not considering what we'd done
 And this kiss of death came from another

--Tawnee Shallenberger

Afterthought

The sunlight
 disappears
 with the window pane shadows
 on the floor,

and shallow water
 strangles
 the cold steel darkness
 of an open drain.

One drop of blood
 falls through the air,
 falls onto the basin.
 One drop of blood
 begins to spread itself
 along the inside,
 begins to spread itself
 on white porcelain,
 becomes its own stream
 absorbing beads of water,
 separating with greater speed
 into short hypertonic branches
 led by gravity to the curve in the sink

where it gently feeds the pool.

--Matt Butzow