

Earl Townsend

Catherine



The empire state building
Shimmering more than ever
As it slowly shatters—

Each falling second brighter
More beautiful

More blinding.

It reminds me of Catherine Barnett
—barely able to speak
but still speaking
all the same.

a brown haired woman in a white room saying,

“shhhh shhhh shhhh” to herself over and over

wanting to be an actress
and less like herself
but getting closer, nearer to herself
each careful breath.

If a chorus finally comes for her—
Her 5 crystal lives ringing beaming—

I will understand breakage
The rules of tremendous birth
And the ruthless mathematics
Of naked exchange