

the unusable chair

just for a little while sit in my chair
as you sit in my chair and rock back and forth
does it bring to memory anything specific?
are you again a child
at your grandmother's feet as she knit a blanket
are you there?
are you in that same spot where i was?
at my grandmother's feet
as she knit a blanket for me?
while she rocked back and forth in my chair
did you do the same thing?
are you me?
am i you?
are you another me?
am i another you?
can you hear the rocking chair?
can you picture that day?
can you feel the yarn in your hands?
is the sun shining on your face?
was the rocking chair outside?
or was it inside?
mine was outside
i look up at my grandmother and she smiles
i am now a child
are you also a child
can you see yourself as you were when you were a child
like me like you like me like you
i was child
you were a child
you are me
i am you
you are me
i am you
do you hear the rocking chair
the creak of the rocking chair

does it remind you of your childhood
are you there
is the break blowing through your hair
are you smiling
are we the same person?
am i you? are you me?
will you think of me?
will you remember me?
will you remember me while you're walking through the
grocery store buying toothpaste?
the toothpaste that maybe i made for you
the lettuce that maybe i picked for you
the electronics that i assembled for you
the poultry i processed for you
the eggs that i packaged for you
will you think of me as you're walking through the
grocery store
will you think of me on an ordinary day?
as i walked to and from my place of work, my \$5 a day
place of work
will you think of me as i started my final walk back
home?
late at night, on what seemed a regular day, a happy
day
will you think of me as im sitting here at my
grandmother's feet next to you
next to you and your grandmother
on that ordinary day, as i walked home, my life was
stolen from me
and my life unjustly ended
i disappeared and i'm no longer here
i disappeared and i'm no longer here
are you able to sit in the chair for me?
in my place?
because my mother can no longer sit in the chair

she has not peace, she lives in limbo, waiting for me
to return, searching for me
will you sit in the chair for me
will you remember me
when we both sat at the foot of our grandmothers
rocking chair
holding the yarn
remember you are me, and i am you
you are me, and i am you
will you remember me
will you say my name
every once in a while
for my mother, for my family
for my people
will you say my name
will you say my name
will you say my name
will you say my name