

**Elegy::Aubade**

**For Q**

*Last of December ends:  
I have not left my heart  
behind.  
-Hankai.*

I counted a year  
into dwellings.

A house stood always

empty but never fully  
without shadow. For so long

a house was always a house

and never an elegy  
drenched in evening sky.

You are so quiet. You are not here.

So I do as if this is choice.  
I time ahead.

Next year will arrive

with last year's night clouds  
unchanged and without hue.

As though nothing ever happened

here, I will eat on the dinner table  
your favorite foods with you smiling

in photograph.