

DAVID RUEKBERG

Valentine

sometimes in the morning	it is dark
I build a fire	the mind gives way to
sunlight streaming over snow	shadows memory
blinding the interior	invented shapes dancing in a glass
I turn my back to daylight	each night as I lie sleeping
the room and all its contents	rehearsing uncompleted stories
resolving themselves again	to recover what I lost
you are here	to help me with this business
and the heat of the fire	between us your stories
and silences	entwined with mine
we visit separate worlds	half-light dreams in daytime
the world we reveal ourselves to	we never knew
could never know	without
this secret we keep	burning
between us	in darkness

Editors' Note: "Valentine" is in a form invented by David Ruekberg, called a "Helix." In a helix, the two columns may be read separately or together—that is, straight down on the left side, straight down on the right side, or in spiral fashion from left to right across the central caesura.