CONTENTS

I. GOOD MORNING HEARTACHE

It's not the Holy Spirit 3

The Flock 4

Revolution 5

The Red-Shouldered Hawk, the Raven 6

When there's no money left— 7

Good Morning Heartache 8

Showtime at the Ministry of Lost Causes 9

Colossal Failure of Human Design, We Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Your Death 10

Ode to October 11

II. AT THE REUNION OF LOST MEMORIES

Tampons: A Memoir 15
Conception Myth 19
On Air Guitar, Lip Gloss, and Flat Irons 20
At the Reunion of Lost Memories 22
When she finally lost the weight 24
Ode to Pink Floyd 26
Breaking the Broken Things 28

III. THE HEART HAS FOUR CHAMBERS

The Heart Has Four Chambers 33
A Thousand Words for Goodbye
Love Song for the Drag Queen at
Little Orphan Andy's 40
Fever Dream 41
Last Call 42
Coming Home 43

Prayer for Beginning 44

To the First Person Who Ate an Artichoke 45

The Gospel According to Sky 46

IV. THAT I COULD KEEP YOU LIKE THIS

Still Life, Ocean Beach 49
In the Ocean Some Survive by Drowning 50
The locked box insists 51
Some Days Are Skin as Tinfoil 52
What You Were Doing Up There 53
That I Could Keep You like This 54
A Million Silver Minnows 56
Halfway Up Devil Mountain 59

V. THE ACROBATS OF PITTSBURGH

The Acrobats of Pittsburgh Notes to Myself on the Morning after His Birth Diagnosis Don't 71 Vocabulary 72 Get Ready The Problem Is How to Swim Naked in a Night Lake How to Slice Bananas 76 His Currency 77 Melodrama of the Suburban Kindergartener 78 Instinct 79 The Words Are 80 Lake Dharma 84

Notes 87 Acknowledgments 89