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## Mixed Signals

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## Mixed Signals

*Kelly Reichelderfer*

They pass each other,  
Wanting to know  
What the other is thinking,  
Where the other is going,  
And why.

Mixed signals

They assume the other  
Knows  
What the other is thinking,  
Where the other is going,  
Automatically and telepathically.  
Why?

Mixed signals

The first plans to slow its pace but  
Continues going on a straight path  
Without others' influences.  
Ignorance

The second plans to veer to the left  
To reach its destination or goal,  
Failing to acknowledge that  
Others are present and should be informed.  
Arrogance

Mixed signals

They read the other's signals wrong.  
It turns out they do not know  
And end up colliding in a horrible accident

Since they did not give notice  
Of thought or direction.  
Why not?

Mixed signals

Pride of self-control,  
Assumptions building up,  
Maybe even something to hide.

Mixed Signals  
Mixed signals

Mother and daughter.  
Husband and wife.  
Ever differing nations.  
Two strangers driving,  
Passing on the street,  
Not thinking like they should  
About where the future will go.

Mixed signals

Since they cannot pass or avoid each other  
They decide to communicate:  
Share what they are thinking,  
Where they are going,  
To avoid confusion and pain.

Fewer mixed signals; proceed with caution.

## Never Saw It Coming

*Claire Shipman*

There is never time to think  
about the banality of evil or  
the evil that men do  
Just enough time to get a second  
cup of expired coffee  
and check the fax  
before Mr. Wrong glides

by wearing new  
aftershave which trails along behind  
him and then settles on me  
Meanwhile my hard drive's humming  
again and the sticky notes have  
begun to overlap themselves  
obscuring my monitor

I know nothing of what is  
past, or passing, or to come  
I know nothing but fluorescent lighting  
and orange gum that in no way  
takes away desire for nicotine or  
anything else except maybe  
orange gum

What could possibly be  
more invasive than this phone  
which rings even when I'm on it?