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### Silverfish Chorus

John Surowiecki

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JOHN SUROWIECKI

SILVERFISH CHORUS

*Strophe*

We embrace face to face, antennae trembling,  
sparkling even. We lunge forward, step back,  
run for our lives before regrouping,  
telling ourselves to act like what we are, for chrissake,  
namely mercurylike blobs mad for starch and sugar,  
madder for toothpaste. Flush us down the sink  
and we'll return hungrier than ever and more convinced  
that the world was created to delight.

*Antistrophe*

We are maddest of all for books, glue and pages,  
incapable of imagining beauty without melancholy,  
art without decay. Don't you find what's sweetest  
at the coda of decomposition, the instant  
before it all goes bad? We like the classics best,  
the brace of salt and bitters, the quotidian  
apochryphas, but in a pinch we'll eat rayon  
or tin foil or any goddam thing at all.