

# CutBank

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## Highwire

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## HIGHWIRE

first the sound of the bell  
the interruption, the something out of  
the blue, the ordinary; so we speak  
across prairies, marriages.  
is anything wrong?  
there are clown firemen frantic  
with their net, there is a falling  
troubadour, a lion wobbling  
on the highwire, unpredictable.  
first the megaphone and then  
parasols floating under the bigtop  
seals diving through diamond rings  
hello Elly hello hello.  
the sword swallows the flame eaters  
magic a matter of presence  
of looking the other way:  
is the lord in the cannon?  
is the lady in the tiger's mouth?  
you could almost say  
we were back to watching  
the circus come down  
monkeys unravelling, tent  
coiled in its cage, leaving us  
children in this empty field,  
the sawdust, the posters:  
some temporary disturbance  
some way of meeting up  
with the animal, something  
to talk for, some sound of bells.