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## Poems from *Mathematics of Love*

John Edwin Cowen

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John Edwin Cowen

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A LIGHT(ALL RIGHT(ANGER:

a light(all right(anger:  
this bolero awakened to  
dance(this enemy  
born in hell,shrew of

airtight speech  
suffering earthquakes  
of despair:— how he swears,  
flies out of his mask

yet comes back to earth(flower  
on his ear)asks for  
the next dance,not to gather  
moss,but light(all right. (*Ole!*)

A PING! FROM BECKETT

from a single Ping!  
a yard of yarn to weave  
into an ear to hear a sound  
sound wonderfully,

the yawp off to a wind  
unwinds waving into air  
rewinds to transfix a murmur  
to murmur forever

a murmur of *ping*,  
*ping, ping & ping again!*  
Not just to say it but to mean  
it:        *Not to mean*

## LAST AND FIRST POEM

Father's on the wire  
father's on the ground  
father's head's resting  
on a shoe

on a shoe. . .  
father's head's resting  
on the wire, father's  
only poem

Father's priest of iron  
father's there and is:  
father's message cocked  
like code,

gun cold.  
doomed like marrow  
turned to stone: locked  
in the bone—

Father's in the wire  
father's head's resting  
in a box, father's in  
the ground.

BEYOND MY CONTROL

the terror's

just:—

as most anyone's going  
to rehab these  
days flies past  
mind's own  
liaison sweet bones we  
lullaby and  
kiss the moon away  
as most anyone's  
going to the  
asylum

who's  
going to the—  
as most everyone?  
Kiss kiss who's stoned?  
and anyway what  
lullaby and whose  
home sweet bones? We  
mind—don't we these days  
fly past to most anyone  
who's anyone's rehab where

(everything's goin' to be

*JUST—*

## UNACCOMMODATING WINTER (YOU)

unaccommodating winter (you)

who owned my heart:  
wind of summer's  
past climates blasting  
to boldest

reconnoitering flames

beneath the wayfarer's  
hearth of fearless  
boyhood jibs and birds:  
even the raven's

revolutionary flights—

whorls of birded sorties  
no less stormy (you) than  
i—no matter how much  
of no one's luck

miraculously(that our love still lasts

—Fairleigh Dickinson University,  
College at Florham, Madison, New Jersey