

## Nobel Prize

Kevin Devine

Are you a nightmare or an oracle  
Unavoidable?  
Are you the future, or a plausible  
Worst-case scenario?  
You've visited in my sleep  
Every night this week  
Curled yourself in my lap  
And smiled while you spoke:  
"Once we've poisoned all the water  
Once we've blackened out the air  
We'll finish murdering each other  
Fair is fair"  
I tried to talk you down:  
"There's a better half you're not looking at  
A greater empathy - "  
You shrugged me off  
Talked over me:  
"You & your simple life  
Come at a complex price  
And they're busting through the gates  
To steal it for themselves -  
I say we razorblade the borders  
Or even take the fight to them  
Let's go slaughtering the natives  
Again  
Or we can fire up the program  
Let the drones do all the dirt  
Might even win a Nobel Peace Prize  
Well-deserved"  
It's every bit as ugly  
Every bit as brutal  
Every bit as dark as it's light  
Paralyzed, wondering why  
While she's dead asleep  
I'm starving for protection  
Pulled in all directions  
Never certain which is the lie:  
The elegance of being alive  
Or the agony