

## The Contents Of Lincoln's Pockets

Rainer Maria

At the time of his assassination:  
two pairs of spectacles, a lens polisher, a pocket knife,  
a watch fob, a linen handkerchief,  
a brown leather wallet containing five dollars  
in confederate money and nine newspaper clippings  
that there is walt whitman's pen  
it sat in his hand and drank ink and whitman lay upstairs  
and watched the trains, fascinated by the big engines  
me, i'm just anxious.  
lincoln struck at the back of the head as if by a velvet curtain  
his body lists and folds, creased at the hip,  
and rolls to the floor beside his seat  
the light's gone out, but even now he's radiating heat  
these relics rise like steam and each disseminates, encircling  
like a halo down trajectory of a common crowd, simmering  
slammed to the back of your head  
you've never been hit before  
how can you deal with that kind of information?  
slammed to your chest  
like a curtain hits the floor  
how can you deal with that kind of information?