

Stranger on a Bus  
(The Upside)

May I bypass myself

And give a voice to love  
and of itself to dissolve  
almost anything:

Uneven absentee  
eyes, staring past the  
passerby's lived-in burden.

May I commit to love's  
poetry after all.

Like that turning  
of his shopping-cart  
frown upside—

From a stranger  
than fiction kiss on

The other side of his  
cheek.

Joe L.  
2005