

## **Kate Houston**

### **Should**

I should have known by now, this feeling.  
Stomach, clenching, so hard the butterflies  
Brush the back of my throat.

I should have smiled by now, at least.  
Teeth, showing, to break the ice  
And cut the tension.

I should have spoken by now, but. . .

I should have danced by now, and yet  
Legs, faltering, when I see you  
And her in that embrace.

I should have laughed by now, at this.  
Eyes, rolling, at artificial sparkle  
And hearts as target practice.

I should have gone a long time ago,  
Feet, turning, past sloppy kisses  
And out the door.