Pain Perdu

Jack Miller

not in the fridge
you told me when last
you went to ground
you'll make it go stale

but I’m just so tired
of throwing it out

warm tears breed mold
that kisses and spreads
like spider-veins of
blue cancer or relief

1. break two mongoose hearts
   into a dented copper bowl

2. cover both red yolks
   with cuckoo’s milk
   beat ’til it cries
3. add cinnamon regret

4. dredge thick slices
   through this wreckage

5. press them flat on
   fevered forehead
   flip them quick
   when smelling loss

   then choke down whole
   with thumbs tied back

   and both eyes broken