

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