

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Ryan Quinn Flanagan: Two Poems

Ryan Quinn Flanagan · Wednesday, October 10th, 2018

### I Ate Myself in a Past Life

I feel like there's money, just not in this town  
 I feel like you are your mother's wife  
 I feel Cambodia is full of sun bleached skulls that are always smiling  
 I feel gratitude and revulsion and apathetic in unequal measure  
 I feel mountain climbers are not as smart as downhill skiers  
 I feel Tupac would have made a lousy trophy wife, even without the records  
 I feel dumb as dandelions when I forget where I parked my car  
 I feel the past does not repeat itself, so much as the future is one large sampling machine  
 I feel the lining of my throat being eaten away by stomach acid  
 I feel the powder on a moth's wings is just "insect cocaine"  
 I feel departure times and divorce lawyers are the same thing  
 I feel I ate myself in a past life  
 I feel there may be leftovers in faded band shirts with silly carbon footprints  
 I feel there is an audience for everything  
 I feel buff and despised and unable to sleep  
 I feel sorry for those that confuse food trucks with immigration  
 I feel the devil has nothing on clam chowder because only one of them exists  
 I feel 10-pin bowling shoes and seven lanes of traffic  
 I feel sick and well and fruitful and fluid  
 I feel Jesse James is kept alive by those shooting blanks  
 I feel the power of a woman each time she smiles  
 I feel Motown and betrayed and thirsty all at once  
 I feel five songs into a new album is a good place to be  
 I feel the smell of atmosphere against my nostrils after the rains  
 I feel nothing lasts forever, least of all the ones  
 you love.

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### A Great Woman Makes a Good Man Right

You stand over the toilet  
 pull it out  
 and wonder why she is

still with you.

There are much easier ways  
than this,  
but she seems  
committed.

Your are not rich  
or lucky  
or overly well  
endowed.

Estranged  
from all family  
and friends.

What she sees,  
you can only  
guess.

But it is enough  
to make you double  
down.

To want to make her right.

To fight in the muddy trenches  
for every single inch  
of her belief  
in you.

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