

FOR A FRIEND  
ON LATELY COMMENCING HIS LOVE LIFE

*for John and Holly Bailey*

Jumbled in body and in mind,  
Slumped to your shoulders, extruding beyond the chair,  
You sit obtusely.

                    Love's such a simple blind;  
A wonder that no one figures it out beforehand!  
But this is your first time.

The cognoscenti among the passersby,  
Remembering your long semesters and your caution,  
Stop and applaud before they pass.  
Long overdue, they mutter, long overdue;  
But here at last. They speak at some length of her and you;  
But none of them speak of love in abstract terms  
Who have seen your big, slow heart, beating so strong.