

Tortoise

“...and do not call the tortoise unworthy because she is not something else...”
- Walt Whitman

I have a need to remind the world that Walt Whitman
loved a tortoise. But she looks
the way cough syrup tastes.
Truth is the coin you're left sucking after the honey's
all gone. The sinners
are on a carnival cruise, drinking to forget
themselves. The first cookie always tastes better than the rest:
the more you stare, the picture only gets worse.
Better wink back quickly even if
you're not prepared to entertain them.
Who's to blame if ducks can't read
where you want them to cross. People only want
the banana if they can take the peel
off. Some hugs, well-intentioned, are a closing
iron maiden. Poison frogs console each other
the best they can; and the tortoise tries her best
not to remain inside.

