

GRETCHEN STENGEL

Second Story

When I was born the doctor pronounced me dead
What did the doctor know?

When my daughter was born the doctor pronounced her alive
But what did the doctor know?

After the autopsy
I drive to an address
They bring her to me
in a cardboard box
with a rosebud design
Inside the box
a plastic bag with
white twisty tie
Inside the bag a
half cup of ash
Inside the ash
a baby bone
Inside the bone: winter—
winter in the
merry month of
May

Mother's in the cellar
The attic is in Father
*Somebody down
there? Anybody
upstairs?*