1-1-2018

You Will Hear Each Question Only Once

Christopher T. Keaveney
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/glcstfac_pubs

Part of the Poetry Commons

DigitalCommons@Linfield Citation
Keaveney, Christopher T., "You Will Hear Each Question Only Once" (2018). Faculty Publications. Published Version. Submission 4.
https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/glcstfac_pubs/4

This Published Version is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
Question 19. What is the man's problem?

The man may actually have many problems but we could focus on one for the sake of brevity, for the sake of argument, for the sake of the friend who he abandoned in the woods as a child as a sort of practical joke that he came to regret, for the sake of the girl who took the flowers he gave her on bended knee only to leave them on the hood of his Buick the following morning, for the sake of the dog who learned tricks just to forget them, for the sake of the planet that was discovered
in a spindly tendril of the solar system
when he was a high school student
only to be demoted five years later,
for the sake of the refugees
for whom he raised money in a walkathon
for an organization whose CEO
embezzled the money to buy a Leer jet
and who were forcibly repatriated
a year later anyway,
for the sake of bananas which suffer
from a blight called Panama Disease and which may disappear from your
breakfast table within the next decade,
for the sake of El Nino or La Nina
or perhaps the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria,
names designed to confuse,
for the sake of the whales,
for the spotted owls,
for the ravaged oceans,
for the forgotten ancestors,
for the sake of the victims of the innumerable disasters
that keep him awake at night
for the sake of our planet,
and for the sake of wonder itself
which is the tool he might have chosen
in the first place to mark
every problem,
big or small,
in the absence of a No. 2 pencil.