

In Bed With a Sore Neck
Richard LeDue

It feels like a rehearsal for a role
we're all talked into:
lying still, but with a hot water bottle,
red as the roses we examine
every Valentine's Day but never buy.
The worse is realizing that this part
of life, the in-between of a doctor's slap
and messy signature confirming
not so much that we lived, but only died,
only leads to an audience of worms or flames,
who are our harshest critics,
judging us by how long it takes
to get to the bone,
while all our conversations about taxes,
car payments, life insurance premiums,
what colour to paint the walls
in the bathroom, how often
to mow the grass
are silenced
like an understudy gone blank.

Richard LeDue was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, but currently lives in Norway House, Manitoba with his wife and son. His poems have appeared in various publications throughout 2019, and more work is forthcoming throughout 2020, including a chapbook from Kelsey Books.

