

romance death rattle

wild animal lies injured in the street
saturday night cars zoom past
 uncaring
 barely missing
breath comes in halting irregular painful spasms
struggle to live.

man stops
pokes the animal with a hammer handle + says
 it's dead it just don't know it yet
he's right
I can't save it
the best I can do tonight is watch it die.

sadness comes
 like a wave of bricks
 like a meteor shower
 like a razor blade blizzard.

sadness comes
 like a rib cage drill press
 like a sledgehammer shotgun
 like a breastbone rip saw.

work isn't the answer
food isn't the answer
sex isn't the answer
money isn't the answer
she isn't the answer.

even the answer
 isn't the answer
 on a night like this
what was the question anyway?

she doesn't appreciate me I don't appreciate her
 I'm not enough she's not enough
 we're not enough
can't anybody tell me
 how to get one of these things to work?

we were wild once but now
 the ruts are too deep
we went to sleep together + woke up
 in separate beds in separate rooms in separate lives
how could I let this happen to me again?

if I leave now I'm a quitter
If I don't leave I'm a coward
if I leave now I'm a coward
if I don't leave I'm a liar.

I really need some sleep.

I thought we could leapfrog over our loneliness + sorrow
I tried to cut corners + now
 here I am
backed into one again.

all those conflicts we avoided
all those scary arguments we never had
all those times my soul said *wait*
 + my heart said *now please now*.

these are the things that pin me down + sit on my chest
 like a playground bully
 squeezing + stifling my affection for her
 until breath comes
in halting irregular painful spasms.

it's dead it just don't know it yet
 he's right
 I can't save this one either
the best I can do tonight is watch it die.

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