

*from* CLOSE YOUR EYES

A gold mist descends. The left hemisphere is burnished gold. The right is silver, running silver, dripping silver. A white vertical line divides them. A flickering line. A silver gong trembles soundlessly in the upper right corner. The spiky white light of bombs enters our upper world from below.

This brown is so comforting, soporific. Relax until there's a tiny control panel. Deep in all this darkness. One skunk stripe across the night. A few brown ducks float in the silver water. The sun's deep in the water. And if we become yellow, a muddy yellow, with a silver streak, and a tiny black horse's head. If we become a small silver wheel turning. On each side of the black this silver frost. A silver smudge, like in the sky when clouds cover the moon, and you can't see the outline of the moon at all, just some

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The world is white. A white rain. A white box.  
Pulsing. Splattering on me.

The world is black. Seen through a white mist. There might be a white face. Clownish. Garish. Black invades from below and quickly blots everything out.

Silver. For an instant. Dizzyness.

Brown. Milky brown. Light invades from above. White plants grow tall.

Dull and starry.

Jet black. Through a red mist. An orange mist never takes over. A white blur in the black shrinks and disappears. A thin silver geyser sprays into the black. This oval is black. Raindrops hit the black water.

A silver crescent, the letter C. A form with a thick inky outline. A white mountain range. A puff of white smoke above a house.

A chalky black. Snow drifting down.

Something so red in the black. Through a yellow mist.

**Bio:**

**Michael Ruby** is the author of five full-length poetry books: *At an Intersection* (Alef, 2002), *Window on the City* (BlazeVOX, 2006), *The Edge of the Underworld* (BlazeVOX, 2010), *Compulsive Words* (BlazeVOX, 2010) and [American Songbook](#) (UDP, 2013). His trilogy, *Memories, Dreams and Inner Voices* (Station Hill, 2012), includes [Fleeting Memories](#), a UDP web-book, and [Inner Voices Heard Before Sleep](#), an Argotist Online ebook. He is also the author of three Dusie chapbooks, including [The Star-Spangled Banner](#) (2011), and is serving as the co-editor of Bernadette Mayer's forthcoming collected early books at Station Hill. A graduate of Harvard College and Brown University's writing program, he lives in Brooklyn and works as an editor of U.S. news and political articles at *The Wall Street Journal*.