

At first I thought he was drunk
the night he pushed the ninth floor button
then followed me out on the fifth

Later I realized
that he was a classics scholar
and that the psychopathic look
was caused by weak muscles
in the left eye

The next day he sat in my office
telling me about the creation of earth
and the birth of gods
then invited me for a beer that evening
not having noticed the ring
on the left hand
I had been holding in full view

I am not Helen
no cities will be destroyed for my face
but I refused the invitation
having neither wish to deceive
nor courage to say that I am married
but like beer anyway

by Nancy Senior