

Get Out Early: A Cento

It is so peaceful on the ceiling!

Never such innocence again.

The living soul has dribbled away.

O wolves of memory!

This is the house of Bedlam.

There is regret. Always, there is regret.

As if a river should carry all
the scenes that it had once reflected.

Beneath it all, desire of oblivion runs.

The knife there on the shelf—

like a crucifix.

Heart lies impotent.

Caught—the bubble
in the spirit level.

Nothing to be said.

The choice is never wide and never free.

Get out early as you can.

The art of losing isn't hard to master.

With lines from Elizabeth Bishop and Philip Larkin

