the gloom is optional
-mostly optional
mostly random
mostly at the worst time
if not the worst time - yet
then the worst time - now
starting now
u can't replace it
no lily-jarred
candy-coated
thing could sink it
out-think it
out-drink it

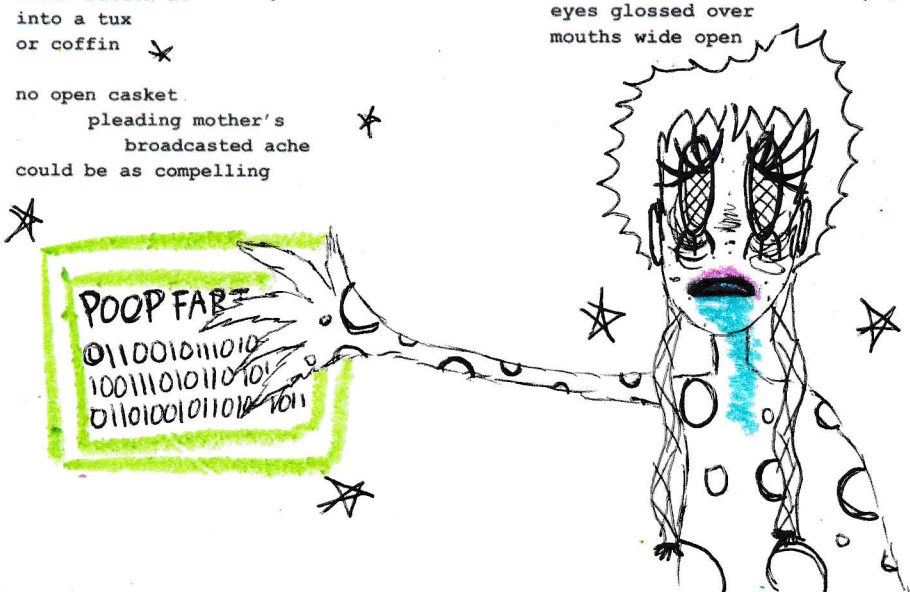
starting now
u start again
-mostly started
mostly thinking
but the thought
it's a snarl
-mostly hiding
mostly quiet
for most but not for u
the runt
the little one
-mostly little

i didn't know it could be this informal
the sluggish despondence

no headlines
reporter
death count
could button it
into a tux
or coffin

no open casket
pleading mother's
broadcasted ache
could be as compelling

as infinite
as our idle loneliness
- our heedless standing
a preference for
eyes glossed over
mouths wide open



the sticker-collector
safely and quietly ensures
a moment of silence
a break now
- break down
one minute of violence
then tighten back up
stick back together
back to the sticker
that debt collector

volcano lady
nothing more than tick
a secular fantasy
unpious dignity tick
nonetheless tick
a girl - a name tick
written on charts
sprawled on a table tick
tucked in a crater tick
trapped in the fissure,,
a buried tick
" let tick
me tick
out
tick now! " tick

BOOM!