

## Cephalofoil

The eye doctor gives me a look  
of concern, he asks  
“do you drive?”  
and I say no, have never  
and he says “well, that’s good.  
You have barely any peripheral  
vision. Have you ever noticed that?”

Have I ever noticed the things  
I don’t notice? I shake my head,  
though maybe it explains  
so much.

As a child, I loved hammerhead  
sharks, loved the shape of them,  
the way they never looked ahead  
and so could not see  
the future.

Later, I learned that it’s believed  
the sharks evolved that way  
to see above and below them  
to see more than we can  
imagine

I thought that knowledge too was a kind  
of loss

But no one has ever died  
from a hammerhead shark  
and they are still  
going extinct

They don’t see anything coming

“I bet you’re easy to surprise”  
the eye doctor jokes  
and I nod  
because I’m always  
failing to notice  
what to look out for

## Take Your Pick

The trading cards of states  
add up to make a country  
if you collect them all,  
that's what the woman at the desk  
told us and

I forgot Montana was a state  
until my friend grabbed  
the trading card of it,  
held it in front of my face,  
and said "how did you ever  
win a Geography Bee?"

The truth is I shouldn't have  
the truth is that I only knew the name  
of that volcano because I dreamed  
so often of being thrown  
into it

so I say "I was a weird kid?"  
and I study the shape of the state  
I forgot and it isn't the first time  
I've forgotten states:

of mind, of being, of matter.  
I told someone once  
that the state of being in love  
was like permanent dislocation

from the life before you had felt  
it and it was your body always aching  
to be touched  
when your love was in the same room  
the same building  
the same city  
the same planet  
but I forgot that state too eventually

And my friend says "do you  
know anything about Montana?"  
I respond without thinking "the first  
prison there  
was built by an outlaw."

All those facts I meant to lose.