

2017

Countdown

Seth Brady Tucker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/bpr>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Tucker, Seth Brady (2017) "Countdown," *Birmingham Poetry Review*: Vol. 44, Article 101.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/bpr/vol44/iss2017/101>

This content has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the UAB Digital Commons, and is provided as a free open access item. All inquiries regarding this item or the UAB Digital Commons should be directed to the [UAB Libraries Office of Scholarly Communication](#).

Seth Brady Tucker

Countdown

—for Jake Adam York

Already well on his way,
a deadline beating in the veins

a starling in flight, wings
slapping air, all for the june-bug

bumbling right left right
so he can be there in time,

exactly this spot in sky, level, stalled,
to where his life has always led him.

I read your book now for hints,
misread the epigraph from MLK

No one can live forever, a lie,
we all know poets never die

not oceans, not energy, nor words
and surely, not you, no. Surely,

we will drink clouded moonshine
again, have the time to toast, a murmuration

of toasts! An eternity of hot sips
of pig and rare bourbon and posts

on social media, where I visit
you now—unlucky fate!—your weak artery

an elegy for time, there from birth, patient
as our orbits, ready, tender as the clock

wound for you, dear man, a drunken thrombus
on his way to meet you, sent by an ancestor

to rob us, and your fall, famed colossus, a tragedy
of silent words forever and ever and ever.