

# The Armchair at the End of the World

*Gregory Nero*

**Abstract**—February, you are pink and lovely and cruel to me. I bought rose incense and I burned it with my windows wide open. I collected pink petals from the bush next to my front door and put them into a jar with boiling water. The extraction is slow, slow, slow and lovely and cruel. I pierced my ears and I saw my blood. I wiped it off with toilet paper and it stained the white with deadly red and it was lovely and cruel. I'm watching spring happen and I'm flowering and yes, yes, it is lovely and it is cruel. Time is sweet anesthesia. Give me as many doses as I can afford.

**Index Terms**—the (longest) month

others and find rest and healing in the form of making new memories.

Love,  
Mystery Person

## I.

The grey clouds became pigeons and flew into the heart of the park to talk about the wind.

And the sky spilt blood on the earth: a feral and beautiful sunset. The Moon, clean and tidy, mopped up the horizon with pale towels. The bruised west is dark red and purple, beaten by the day.

## II. TUESDAY

buffet listening to chris talk about programming /// biking back on 3rd ave at 3:30am and listening to schubert. /// something like peace or bliss.

## III.

I cried this morning while i was eating oranges. I'm ripe.

## IV.

maybe i was just daydreaming. voice messages sent in whispers. quiet, i might wake up my parents, so i'll cover my head with a blanket and talk to you. but i'm not whispering dear, i'm screaming. and it's not you, it's the phone. and i'm alone in pennsylvania pretending that you can actually hear me.

## V.

Why is the wind blowing northward today?

## VI. TAKING MY OWN ADVICE (FORTUNES FOR A STRANGER)

Dearest,

The next month, heralded by the New Moon, will see you through a period of tremendous personal growth, at the price of having to forfeit things that are familiar and comfortable to you. The New Moon reminds us of beginnings and endings, and so during this upcoming month you will see just that: new opportunities will bloom when you seek them out, and you'll have the courage to bring tenured feelings to rest at last. Take time to treat yourself with the same kindness that you show