

H A R K H E R A L D

1. *life protag*

he knows that he is cruel
& he forgives himself for that

he goes on dates
he hopes no one
 will ask him for sex

he surrounds himself
 with strange characters
— a brood of odd ducks!
privately, he thinks
 he is not like them —
but they're all the same, really,
 just the same

his friends are all beautiful
he hates ugly people
& will not trust them



he listens to lectures
 at 1.75x speed
everyone around him
 talks in slow motion

he is not gay
he likes the clothes though
he likes what people
 assume about him
the affect gives him access

he watches street fights on reddit
he imagines himself blind drunk,
voice gone, all fists, all teeth

he's concerned with others
& what they think of him

he eats frozen pizza
he eats protein powder
he eats bagged salad
he eats vitamin supplements
he eats chocolate digestives

he believes that
 no one deserves happiness
he does not think himself cynical

he prays at the foot of his bed
by now a habit, just a habit