

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THIS, 2011

- Vilma Ginzberg

From Section 2, Not for wimps:

UNROLLING TOO FAST

as Andy Rooney once said:

*life is a lot like a roll of toilet paper
the closer you get to the end
the faster it goes*

nowadays it takes longer every dawning
to pull my stiff'ning bones

off my morning mattress
sturdy and faithful as an old husband
and just as hard to leave

morning chores no longer end by noon
the day shrinks on its own secret schedule
mid-morning skipping to late afternoon
piling urgency on chores undone

meanwhile, the reluctant body
increasingly puzzling between too much and too little
forever sops up time
resting from last exertion
resisting taking on the next

January jumps to June without notice
chubby-faced children
become themselves parents
grandchildren open up 401-K's
today's hours
droplets in a downpour
disappear into oceans of years

the scroll unrolls itself more rapidly each day
scattering shreds of intent and desire
 beyond my schedule's reach
and yielding far less ease or ambition
 to ponder the riddles of mortality
 let alone finish the family albums
 write my will
 tell you I love you