



AS I SAID | KATHRYN REGINA





**Kathryn Regina** is a writer and teacher in Chicago. She has work in *elima*, *Diagram*, *Word Riot*, *Sleepingfish*, *Opium*, *Juked*, *Lamination Colony*, *3:AM Magazine* and *Court Green*. Her second chapbook *i am in the air right now* is forthcoming from Greying Ghost Press. She blogs at [this-is-not-poetry.blogspot.com](http://this-is-not-poetry.blogspot.com).

PUBLISHING GENIUS SPECIALIZES IN SHORT BOOKS

PUBLISHING GENIUS ALSO RUNS **ISREADS**, THE OUTDOOR JOURNAL. VISIT ONLINE AT [WWW.BALTIMOREISREADS.COM](http://WWW.BALTIMOREISREADS.COM) OR [WWW.NASHVILLEISREADS.COM](http://WWW.NASHVILLEISREADS.COM).

**As I Said** IS THE THIRTEENTH EDITION OF THIS PDF CHAPBOOK E-SERIES. VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INSTALLMENTS.

SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME YEAR-ROUND. PLEASE VISIT [WWW.PUBLISHINGGENIUS.COM/SUBMIT.HTML](http://WWW.PUBLISHINGGENIUS.COM/SUBMIT.HTML) FOR DETAILS.

**PUBLISHING GENIUS**  
**2200 MD AVE C1**  
**Baltimore, MD 21218**

PG TPC 013

[www.publishinggenius.com](http://www.publishinggenius.com)  
Front cover painting by Anna Nasset  
Copyright © 2008 Kathryn Regina

What if there were two of me and only one of you  
What if one of me was at the bottom of the ocean and the other  
stood at the shore looking at the water  
What if you wanted me but did not know  
that I am really under water way down under loads of waves  
and whales and starfish hiding in a clam a pearl in my mouth  
What if I told you that you must speak my other name  
What if the other you was a thousand miles away  
in a hot desert buried under quicksand filling your mouth and eyes  
What could either of us say with all of that weight on top of us  
so far below the surface of the earth

a dragon carried the sun above the water

by the time he broke the surface

he was covered in flames

**As I Said**

Kathryn Regina

One minute he's died and  
the next he's died  
She says it's not as though  
I expected him to come back as  
a human or even a ghost I just  
expected him to come back

Sometimes I see him  
on the other side of the window  
standing in the yard looking in  
But when I try to look him in the eye  
he's gone. The curtains are white  
I think I should mention that

She says she doesn't trust him  
anymore. Ever since he turned  
into her father in a dream  
and she started hearing people  
talking into intercoms  
when there were no  
intercoms around. It's like taking a  
trip to the desert

carve this light into your mouth

As I said,  
these are the things that  
make me shoot myself  
Isn't it weird how  
taking half of a forty  
of Celexa really is like  
breaking bread  
It even looks like a little  
loaf,  
see?

Don't you hate it when  
the answering machine light is on  
but there isn't really a message?  
As soon as I walked in the door  
I could tell a stranger  
had been in the apartment  
These are the things that  
my therapist refers to as  
irrational thought patterns  
She dresses up to watch television  
I washed all the dishes as clean as I could  
but I could still tell that  
someone else was around  
Someone is always calling for Daisy  
but Daisy isn't my name

"If it holds my attention that is as close as I come to happiness."

"There is a dragon in the washing machine. It must have crawled in  
through the drainpipe. Now all of my clothes will be the color of fire."

"I dreamed she died and he got married two weeks later.  
When really he's the one that's dead."

"Her brother died and she waited for him  
to come back but he never did. Then she got mad."

"Once I took a bath in the dishwasher. It was cloudy  
and turning cold but I still came out much cleaner."

"That dragon is leaving light all over the house."

And then he was gone

Though I wouldn't have expected it  
the day went on as if  
there were no black cauldron no  
bottom of the lake

At one point the whole house  
was on Prozac  
then she broke out in hives  
and the fun was over  
She just showed up one day  
soaking wet and talking

We encouraged her to relocate  
I said to her Tennessee is pretty  
but I just feel like Iceland  
is where I belong  
My answering machine  
confuses voices

A whale must be coming  
any day the water will change

I walked in and my cat was in pieces  
clawing and meowing and generally raising  
sadness. I said to her did you know  
microwaves can send the cancer right into you  
even though there's that door  
People never kill with their hands anymore  
why is that? He just collapsed  
He wasn't sitting too close to the computer screen  
or standing in front of the microwave or anything like that  
he was just leaning into the sink brushing his teeth  
and then he collapsed

I walked in and the cat had scratched the wall  
into a vitamin scored to hide a tiny gun

There are two trees and one man riding a bicycle past them  
The first tree sticks out its tongue and lays it on the man's lap  
The man grabs hold and hangs on and the tree says  
I don't like it when you do that to my tongue  
but the man cannot hear. He is so curious  
The other tree looks down at the ground and wonders  
when will this be over?

The man becomes yellow and illuminated, a light  
carved in his mouth

She said, "Just sit down for a minute so that I can look at you."

When I woke up and went into the kitchen the sun was coming through the window so that it looked like everything was covered in glass

"You are moving around like one of those white butterflies so close to being a moth."

"Aren't all butterflies moths the way squares are rectangles?"

"The way they handle light is different."

If she looks at me long enough I will become something different like a window pane or the reflection of a tree in the kitchen faucet

"Not completely different, just added to."

open the refrigerator  
and there is a light

I worry that I'm prettier now than I ever will be  
and I stay shut up in the house all day  
It's so soon until I die pictures don't make me feel better  
She says it's not a day until you go to sleep  
and wake up again it doesn't matter what the sun does  
I didn't sleep for three weeks  
You are my hope I told her  
She got down on the floor  
and painted a stripe across her forehead  
She said there was a girl that followed  
a porcupine up a tree that grew taller and taller  
I want those quills the girl said  
but what do you think was up there?

It is raining tonight and I think it will be enough to keep me awake

I walked in and she was peeling  
paint from the wall

There is a giant ingestible inside this wall  
she said and she peeled  
while the cat slept, its face  
swelling in and out

She prays to a miniature  
statue of St. Teresa of Avila  
For a long time she thought  
it was Mary then she saw St. Teresa  
engraved in the statues' left eye  
and she thought oh well

An ant is crawling into a hole looking for something  
Something is written in the dirt and it's nothing mystical  
says the ant whose whole life is mystical

How long has it been since you've been gone?  
I went to the train station and I sat all day thinking  
I could see your face in the approaching whistle

I waited for you  
I sat in the living room and scratched marks  
into the couch cushion one for every piece of time

I need to find a whale  
to get swallowed by

A girl chased a porcupine  
up a tree that grew taller and taller  
I want those quills she said  
but what do you think was up there?

A frog carried the sun above the water

She chased the porcupine for so long she forgot  
about the ground and then she was somewhere else

A prince and princess were in two different towers  
and the wind pushed them together  
Some people believe in God but it's not good  
to focus on one thing like a dream  
with only one person in it

That frog swam for hours to find the sun and it was heavy  
A line is forming at the gate