

BLIND PEOPLE

Jane Poston

sometimes he looks
at me and his eyes
are very embarrassing I
want to tell him sunsets
aren't what they're cracked up to be Rembrandt's
a big joker
so I take him to the zoo
and the elephants like me
are too careful with him
and the lions
don't make a noise
for fear of frightening him
or maybe the lions
don't want to give themselves away sometimes
he wants to spit
in the Royal Gorge
and follow it all the way
down he wants to know
what it's like
to stumble across the unexpected beautiful thing,
for example the particular violet
fringing the grocer's thumbnail well
sometimes blind people think
they are invisible
but it is blind people
who hear a dime falling
from the Empire State Building if
it is the one
that would hurt you
an inaudible whistle he says
like a bat going home from long hours
of avoiding things *listen* he says

*it is the emergency sound
of your safety why
yes an inaudible whistle i say
and the top of my pate
tingling as when one imagines
a dime falling
skillfully there.*