

## Naming

The thing that won't go away –  
the name at the end of the email  
we received today. Awaited,  
yet not as expected.

A capstone name.  
A summer day of a name.  
Its graceful symmetry  
and three-step rhythm.

I'll never know how  
the parents-to-be  
had chosen it. Just that  
it wasn't destined to become

a name for someone to grow into –  
to live inside, as in a second skin  
to grow old in.  
But it is there for me to keep.

\*

You never talked about your loss,  
you just got on with life –  
or persuaded us that you did.  
You tucked the birth certificate

away, somewhere safe,  
to be found when you were gone.  
Our still-born brother, with a name  
never spoken.