Wonderbread

By Alfred Corn

Loaf after loaf, in several sizes,
    and never does it not look fresh,
    as though its insides weren’t moist
    or warm crust not the kind that spices
    a room with the plump aroma of toast.

Found on the table; among shadows
    next to the kitchen phone; dispatched
    FedEx (without return address, though).
    Someone, possibly more than one
    person, loves me. Well then, who?

Amazing that bread should be so weightless,
    down-light when handled, as a me
    dying to taste it takes a slice.
    Which lasts just long enough to reach
    my mouth, but then, at the first bite,

Nothing! Nothing but air, thin air ....
    Oh. One more loaf of wonderbread,
    only a pun for bread, seductive
    visually, but you could starve.
    Get rid of it, throw it in the river—

Beyond which, grain fields. Future food for the just
    and the unjust, those who love, and do not love.


Source: Present (Counterpoint Press, 1997)