

Earthquake

(To the people of Haiti)

In the first minute

a tree branch shook

under the bird's claws.

In the second minute

the whole city shook

under the bird,

confounded

by the sheer speed

of the fall:

The boy who was bathing in the river

as the one behind him drowned

the tourist in the white boat,

the student who slipped a note for a rendezvous

into her pocket.

The shared taxi

