

ERRANDS

The ticking of an old clock
Mingles with the sound of the radical talk show host
 AM waves crawling up the walls to the metal rooftop
The owner steps up
You're a writer. Do you know what a split infinitive is?
It is an accusation. Not a question.

In another place on the same day
the air is acrid with the smell of regret
Or leather or shoe polish or the motor oil of an old machine
His filthy arms trailing down to the black underneath his fingernails
New soles?
It's a presumption. Not a question.