to walk means to fall
to thrust forward

      to fall and catch

the seemingly random
is its own system of gestures

based on a series of neat errors
      falling and catching

to thrust forward

sometimes the body misses
then collapses

sometimes
it shatters

with this particular knowledge

a movement spastic
          and unwieldy

is its own lyric and
the able-bodied are

tone-deaf to this singing some

      falling

is of its own grace

some

      falling

         rather occurs

out of laziness or distraction

here, the entire frame is shaken

these are the falls

where I tell myself

      you shouldn't have fallen

I mean to inflict

while the critic of the world watches

o stupid, stupid world

so that, the mother might
say your child must be angry

because you are disabled

so I told her, your child
must be angry

because you are a bitch

and the children ask
why do you talk like that?

and I ask them
why do you talk like that?

and children grow up
knowing this is ordinary

and when there is silence
all naked

this voice seemingly
       corrupted

or absent, so *clarity is*
       and isn't
and this voice is full of longing
                   to connect

when I speak, it's as though
speaking underwater

the poems are a mere reflection
          of the murky underside

Everything can be illuminated by water
or most things.

The two women in the black of mourning
knelt by the river in exact tandem, and

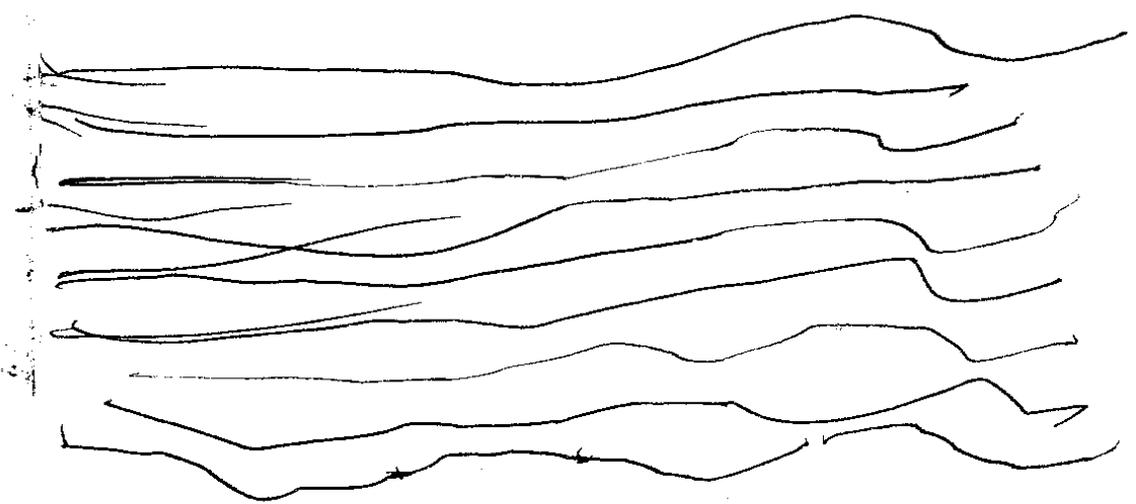they spoke softly.
The film, like life itself, had minimal

plot and extraordinary beauty.
The film, like life itself, was

slow and maniacal. And when
we walked the village afterwards

in search of just the right martini
I thought of the same steps I had

taken years earlier in preparation
for mourning, and I was not unhappy.

The best thing about the film was
nature as musical score.

In the morning the birds were so loud;
they spoke in patterns.

A mother's writing needs to be fragmented
when children inhabit the room:

a word here, a word there.

Like Robert Musil's *A Man With No Qualities*,
my heart has no qualities.