

## DORIAN GRAY WRAPS HIS FAMOUS PORTRAIT IN FUNNY PAPERS

Another move another van full of broken vases  
reattached by golden glue to look the part of ancient /  
Another cheap apartment another job I can barely  
hold onto & another cardboard box packed full of  
junk I've collected over the years as trophies of  
mediocrity / I've carried my life in a banker's box on  
my way to the taxi pool so many times I'm often given  
a ride to my new place for free / One summer the  
driver circled the blocks a few times while I recited  
poetry from memory so we both could enjoy the AC /  
I have had to pack up libraries more than most  
librarians & the things I have stolen from lovers fit  
nicely into a little wooden box the size of a pack of  
cards / A golden button from a waistcoat of a man  
who wouldn't marry me / A pull string from a child's  
toy that was burned in a fire / A bone from a bird's  
wing / If I am a collector of memories let me tell you  
the story behind this newspaper clipping: / When I  
was twelve I was scarred in an accident & my mother  
wrapped all of our mirrors up in comic strips so I  
would have something to read while brushing my teeth  
/ Not a novel or paintings or roadmaps to  
mancifestdestiny but the kind of comics that were  
already in the bathroom sleeping beside the toilet /  
Maybe that's why I an see so vividly Mr. Gray  
wrapping his face up in news paper comic strips  
before the next big move / Hiding his reality behind a  
joke or two / She was so delicate the way she changed  
them each Sunday.