

## DANE CERVINE

# Waking to the Dark

*It is dark outside, he said. Then blow out the candle, she replied.*

It was the same each anniversary, their banter  
a way of loving. His words, like fangs or swords,  
long since quieted. Her words, like a sharp stick  
to the head, no longer drawing blood. They'd climb  
the peak each year with their tortured journals,  
burn them page by page in a Tibetan prayer bowl.  
Take one silver hair from the head of the other,  
let it float down over the cliff into vast space.  
Like a secret no one could trace. The world  
is like this. Someone says, *It is dark outside,*  
and another replies, *Then blow out the candle.*

Dane Cervine's poetry books include *Kung Fu of the Dark Father* (2015), *How Therapists Dance* (2013), and *The Jeweled Net of Indra* (2007). *Saddle Road Press* will publish his new cross-genre work of Zen koan & prose poems in 2018, entitled *The Gateless Gate—Polishing the Moon Sword*. Dane's poems have won awards from Adrienne Rich, Tony Hoagland, the Atlanta Review, Caesura, and been nominated for a Pushcart. His work appears in *The SUN*, the *Hudson Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Poetry Flash*, *Catamaran*, *Miramar*, *Rattle*, *Sycamore Review*, *Pedestal Magazine*, among others. Visit his website at: [www.DaneCervine.typepad.com](http://www.DaneCervine.typepad.com)

## JASON E. CARTER

*Domestic #16, 2013*  
Oil on canvas, 37.5 x 51 in



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