

Flannery & eschatology

by [Angela Alaimo O'Donnell](#) in the [November 22, 2017](#) issue

*A truck driver driving up with a load of hay found a peacock turning before him in the middle of the road, shouted, "Get a load of that bastard!" and braked his truck to a shattering halt.*  
—Flannery O'Connor, "The King of the Birds"

It'll be like that, the Second Coming.  
Making your way, laden with hay,  
down the same old local road,  
and there you are, stopped dead by Christ  
with no idea what to say  
in the face of such transforming  
glory. Helpless without a code  
to die by, tact is sacrificed  
and candor coughs up the words we need.  
He was a bastard, truth be told,  
His father being not of this world  
but the hidden one we just can't see  
until a blue-plumed vision stalls your truck  
leaving you blind and wonderstruck.