

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EQUAL SIGN

Emily Archambault

It's funny that we first began
to fall in an English class

where our teacher would
quote us the divorce rates

as if to say
it's the fools who believe—

your lives are merely
the flip of a coin

and Romeo and Juliet
were just two dumb kids

we pondered whether
you could reduce love

to a normal distribution
and some error bars

when years later I start
working my own calculations

how many miles
separate us now

how many days
until it's zero

and what are the odds
we make it

well if the numbers look good
does that make me

the mathematician

or the fool?