

# The Messenger

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## The Exchange

Tim Hospodar

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**PERRY MADDOX** {ALBANIAN DREAMS  
(Winner, Margaret Haley Carpenter Prize for Poetry)

*Long after independent assortment had  
set the deck of fate, a worker among millions  
slices the skin of a finger on the rotor of an  
un-oiled assembly device, jammed from neglect.*

*Long after random fertilization had  
determined the cold reality of things,  
a drop of black blood falls on the dry steel,  
causing it to slide back into place and run again.*

*Long after the crossing over of money from  
dead uncle to newly rich nephew, a young man  
awakes in a penthouse to a throbbing thumb  
but sees no use in it and returns to sleep.*



**TIM HOSPODAR** {THE EXCHANGE  
(Nominated, staff art award)

