

[You have the right to remain silent]

You have the right to remain silent,
but not until you are detained.
Until your apprehension you have
the yes sir no ma'am requisites
in all honesty or you have cuffs.
While the laundry is draining, spinning,
and you sit in the basement, drained,
spun, lights off, music over,
get your story straight, practice your
lines, and think about remaining. Just that.

[You do you says the sneaker seller]

You do you says the sneaker seller
and the addiction counselor alike
in flat-lit folding chair meetings.
The language of consolation positively
hollows but the spruce sways, doing
itself, you might say, and the petals
of the pear tree do undoing, padding
the sidewalk outside a kindergarten.
Sun does sun and dog does dog
in a swirl of lingo, a system
of cryptoeconomies and controls.
You churn, abjure, doing you.