

## Teethache

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The beetle is splayed perfectly,  
like a professional anatomy model. Baring  
his fibers and membranes. Do you  
think it pays well? Posing for the x-ray? Do you  
wonder if he regrets it, wishes he had  
gone to dental school? What do you tongue  
the most? The space between cheek and teeth or  
the ridged roof?

Sometimes late at night, the heat wave will  
settle like a yellow splat over the map and  
you're swimming in an egg. The river Seine cuts  
through, spilling yolk  
into the suburbs. You can step in  
if not for the cholesterol.

Sometimes, the teeth catch right on the tip  
of the ice cube and the cold lasts.  
What wouldn't you do  
for a glass of tepid water.