

The Meneely Bell

By Laura Jean Gilloux

They duct taped the clapper to dampen the sound,
like putting a dimmer on a light switch, except
duct tape doesn't adjust as easily for a candlelit dinner,
and now the muffled clock tower is confused.

There's a dimmer on the light switch in my dining room,
but I spend most of my time in the kitchen,
and with the muffled clock tower's confusion,
it's peeling off the hour and I'm always running behind.

I spend most of my time in the kitchen
when the baby starts crying upstairs.
He's peeling off the hour and I'm always running behind
every other mother who knows what she's doing.

The baby starts crying upstairs.
He doesn't adjust easily for a candlelit dinner.
Every other mother knows what she's doing.
They duct tape the clapper to dampen the sound.