

Coagulate

by Teri Coyne

It sounds like it is
the inside of a Tupperware container
with Grandma's gravy
from last Thanksgiving

It is not a word you want to hear
from a doctor who is looking
at your veins
"all those cheeseburgers
have coagulated near your heart"
the sound is as bad as the news

Mom never said
take a shower before your sweat
coagulates
if she had
I would have showered more often

Oh some prefer congeal
or thicken
they are the ones who say things like
"he is in heaven now"
or "Aunt Mary passed away,"

I want my truth served
up on a platter
as solid as it can be
once it coagulates

it's too late