

Colin Dodds

NO PREDICTABLE MALFUNCTION

by [Colin Dodds](#)

The bar
smelled like
an ex-
girlfriend's breath. And I was lik
e Belgium in the 20th
century— just waiting for someone to violate my neutrality. I had little room to mane
uver; the market of the heart had been rebuilt for efficiency, its work outsourced and
its meager glory distributed to chromosomes, glands, and early sufferings. The man ne
xt to me makes sense, but only over long spans of time. He spits a whole failed life on
to my sleeve. I cross the bridge alone at night, howling and gesturing like a failed s
orcerer. The moving parts of my squalid heart lurch according to no predictable malfun
ction.

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Colin Dodds grew up in Massachusetts and completed his education in New York City. He's the author of several novels, including *Windfall* and *The Last Bad Job*, which the late Norman Mailer touted as showing "something that very few writers have; a species of inner talent that owes very little to other people." Dodds' screenplay, *Refreshment*, was named a semi-finalist in the 2010 American Zoetrope Contest. His poetry has appeared in more than a hundred publications, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Samantha. You can find more of his work at thecolindodds.com.