

CHRISTINA DAVIS

**from *Mankindness***

*We do not need to be afraid we will be late to the battle.*  
—Sherwood Anderson

5.

It is not that one is of man-  
kindness  
more capable,

but that each exists according to where the cliff is

in him,  
in her.

It is from there the action  
must reach you—

6.

Sometimes I will be passing a person and the quiet  
riot of names published in his cemetery,  
the quiet riot of names published in her cemetery,  
parents and houses and hurts and pets, an aggregate of all  
the calls he (all the calls she) answered to—

rises up in me.

This which is neither  
solitude nor the being

found is the battle.