

Explaining To A Dog

by Ed Higgins

My wife tells me
your dog has vomited
on the carpet AGAIN!

And I am going to
rub your nose in it
if you don't explain

to him this is so fucking rude!
And so I tell the dog
vomiting on the carpet

is totally unacceptable.
If this happens again
both the carpet and I

are going to vomit on him.
My black Lab tilts his head
looking puzzled as I explain this.

The carpet is wondering
why the idiot dog is wagging
its tail and smiling warmly.

The carpet is disgusted
and throws the dog
a shit-for-brains look. A small spider

scuttles across a corner
of the carpet, disappearing
behind the TV cabinet—

worrying what will come
next, fearing the rolled
up newspaper he sees

in my wife's hand as she
enters the living room
bent on further correction.

