

# Effort

*by* Johnny Dantonio

In one of our first conversations

I found out you enjoyed secrets -

blogs and books of them, rather -  
prose revolving around anonymous intimacy.

Since then,

I've been compiling and collecting  
every word and way  
that may persuade you  
to share your secrets

with me.

I practiced for endless hours -  
minutes I swore I'd never reveal -  
memorizing and perfecting

conversations to  
arrest your intrigue.

Once captured,

I planned to  
chain that attention  
and never unlock it  
until it wanted to stay

by choice.

But plans change.

Life intrudes and maims hypotheticals;  
it makes a mess of romance.

I — foolishly —  
allowed the everyday

to derail my personal promise  
to astound you.

Now,  
revealed,  
I will whisper you  
the world  
until your world  
is simply

my secrets.

