

Different People

1

The coastline drifts away
like that weathered rosary
the man has sneaked into his pocket;
something is bigger than him—
even he knows it.

2

A woman sighs, seeking refuge
behind a large white handkerchief.
If she were a magician
she would produce
a flap-winged gull. The woman
shrieks at the thought.

3

She's high, a face like almonds
netting the top of the tree,
strawberry heels
and, hey, I think there's a song
in here somewhere.

4

Four mandarin men define the shape
of a table. Their legs
lie about actual numbers.
But the cleaner knows more:
she wipes the blank face of the earth
for better or for worse.

GAIL DENDY