

On a Seldom, if Ever, Remarkable and Difficult but Rewarding Application of Forgiveness

We can forgive the ignorant, who know
Not what they do, and maybe we'll forgive
The evil, who know what they do but not how
To love and consequently not how to live,
But what about the very fortunate,
Those noticeable men and women whose lucky stars
Shine like Broadway marquees? Their enviable fate—
That talent! Those white teeth! The Pulitzers!—
Decenters us: At last we recognize
That we are not the be-all and the end-
All and not even the apple of all eyes
And while we know the worth of books we've signed
We're grateful for the wider view given
Us by those whose gifts we have forgiven.

-Kelly Cherry