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Bendigo means you want
something
urgently/command rushed
through caverns of throat to
air and reality in a flurry of
frustration/bendigobendigob
endigoBENDIGO!/pointing
to a toy car just out of
reach/then the tap/are you
thirsty?/yes/tight fists grasp
the mug/too rigid with
determination to avoid the
tilting slop and spill that
comes when you move
bodily with a drink/have
you had enough to drink in
this heat?/are we running
out of milk?/need to buy

more at some point this
afternoon/note this/now
dinner thoughts/no, lunch
first/lunch first/ring
tone/message arrives in
another room/another
dimension/there's a bill
needs paying somewhere in
the back of my mind/tolling
like a dull bell at intervals
of varied panic/no time
now/no
time for this now/no
time

the cat appears like a spell

bendigobendigobendigo
CAT!/wow!/CAT!/radio
says that/

*at any one given moment
there are thousands of . . . /*

what?/kitchen cupboard
doors are wafting open and

shut/open and shut/creating
a balmy domestic wind and
out come all the pots and
pans/next/not the cutlery
drawer/no/no/no/stop/these
are sharp/let's make lunch
now/postman knocks/here
and gone long enough to
lose track of exactly where
we were headed/

**I know what's in this
package**

and now your nappy/open
first/the most immediate
package/halt this/lunch in a
little while/let's sit down
and do this calmly/a furious
windmill of limbs/play
interrupted for this?/

anguish streaks across your
tightening face like
lightening and then the tears
fall/hot face crossed by

salty tracks/every kick of
your legs striking a blow for
freedom denied/shrieks
rising higher/then/

oooohhhhh/you're still

the sun breaks out from
behind a cloud/the wind is
rising/the light has
altered/filter over
lens/*Mater Suspiria*/

lit for a film/the room is
glowing and instantly
distracted you watch the
trees dance at the
window/like you did at a
few weeks old/ shadows
beating/

the/walls/pupils/dilate in
wonder/you smile now/and
the change is
complete/release/

and to the bin/bin needs a
clean/there are nooks and
crannies here that disturb
me/their resistance to
relinquishing
filth/Domestos advert rings
in my head/your high chair
shows the crust of Weetabix

and parental guilt/

now lunch/but not from the
cat's bowl/no/no/no/let's
put that down/help me find
the bread and we'll make
cheese on toast/look, see
how the cheese grater
works/lunch is low on the
list/trailing far behind the
sudden urgent need to be
held/and your soft skin
brushes mine/twisting ropes
of my hair/

while the grill pulses and
heats behind us/

bee! bee! bee, mummy!/a
fly alights on the
windowsill geranium/ and I
lower you into the high
chair whilst you are
distracted/the cheese makes
contact with the bread/in
deft/swift moves it's under
and now it reconfigures
beneath the glowing
bars/NOOOOOOO/you say/
NOOOOOO/and the hot melt
is rejected/cast down floor
wards with
grapes/cucumber/milk/

did babies in wartime do
this?/children ate everything
then didn't they?/

**food is the first politics/
who said this?**

no/babies are babies/we try
again/slowly this
time/approach with