

The Last Page

A Pronunciation Lesson

Not hi ROSH ima –
Everything before and after
the central rush of spit
mere prelude and
pathetic aftermath

or hiro SHEE ma –
a lingering wail
of shame

It's

hi

ro

shi

ma

each syllable stepping
into the print
of the one before
as on a gentle stroll
beside a river
in the clear morning

after a murder.

Jonathan Shaw