

WILL DOWD

## EXIT INTERVIEW

God is sitting behind a glass-top desk.  
He's asking me questions from a list.  
A survey about my experience. User feedback.

I am answering truthfully, which is to say, negatively.  
No, life did not live up to my expectations.  
No, the ratio of good to bad luck had not been satisfactory.

No, meaning had not been disbursed at regular intervals.  
No, I wouldn't recommend it to a friend.  
No, I wouldn't try it again.

God scratches his ear with his pen.  
One last question, he says. What about all the beauty?  
Hadn't I noticed that the world was full of beauty?

I think about it for a minute.  
Yeah, there was beauty, I concede, but not a lot of mercy.  
God sighs and makes a mark on his clipboard.

The beauty was the mercy, he says.