

ERIK MOYER

## TAKE A PENNY, LEAVE (HEARTLESS)

You begged eternal sunshine, a spotless mind.  
Only the lonely could be so forgetful  
that lows are a symptom of highs.

Or just that memory serves like Sampras,  
and taking a penny means leaving a penny, too.  
You once said friends were the best investment,

cashied out and bet it all on the ponies.  
It's harder to keep it than it is to get it,  
the same way jokes don't endure like stories.

Break once, now you're broken.

There's no bouncing back from quintuple bypass,  
still every last penny you saved on dollar menus  
gets spent on heart surgeons: the old fable,

how selling out is a great way to go broke.  
An empty waiting room with your ribcage  
split open, the EKG weeping in one tone.