Undo the Mind

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She and her dog
saw me coming
down the road
off Highland Park.

Then,
they turned away
opposite direction
in dismay.

And in contempt
both gave me
their back.

Only God knows
the stumbling block.

They might’ve had
a million reasons.

But how am I supposed
to guess?

I am no
witch;
you know?

Had I found out
the trouble,
I could’ve been guilty
of sexual assault?

Don’t bother!
I only read attitudes,
for that’s
my career.
As if I had labels
SEALED
on my forehead
which read:

Bandit,
or rapist.

Burglar,
or murderer.

Assassin,
or felon.

Wild,
or vagabond.

Bum,
or dumb.

She and her ‘puppy’
turned away from me.

--Amanuel Malik Wolde