

Kill the Poets

Emma Lou Thayne

*On the occasion of canceling the invitation to my poet friends to read at the
White House before the invasion of Iraq*

A dangerous bunch, these.

Never content to let be
the fomenting of an idea in the night

to let this side talk surreptitiously
to that side,
color or cause notwithstanding
to disregard those set jaws
those confident smiles

to pull from a page of words
the drowning body
of what counts more
than a bottom line.