

## *To a Former Student Training to Become an Interrogator*

DAVID O'CONNELL

They say pressure isn't torture  
and, at times, because I don't know better  
I'm willing to agree  
as I'm willing to believe  
across the steadily warming globe they live  
to kill our people.

I told you  
just months ago, in literature,  
unlike life, everything happens for a reason

as you struggled through Act III, scene iv, *Macbeth*,  
our hero-villain shocked by a ghost of his own making,  
and, again, again, I asked,

what does he mean?

. . . *the worm that's fled*

*Hath nature that in time will venom breed,*

and

. . . *never shake / Thy gory locks at me.*

After those photos (stacked bodies, dogs, electrodes, hoods)  
and month-by-month the rumors of something darker  
done in our name, I can't fathom your decision,

though I remember the affable grin  
when the difficult text  
clicked, and I can almost see your face  
turned toward that shadowed other.