

Foundation in Endurance

There are no appeals.
She sat and wrote the letters

and yet, not *dead letters sent*
they were not sent

but were not dead—
her condemner read them all

and fed her death with them
and fed his death

even his words
hang there at the start

so the captain
is kept alive by Hannah

all these *years*,
mean life in turn for death

he dealt her.
No appeals would change

the decree.
With witness I speak this.

*with phrases from Gerard Manley Hopkins, “I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day”