

ROSS CLARK

LONG-DISTANCE CALL

The phone rings while I am shaving,
so you answer.

From your tone of voice, and one half
of the conversation,

I can tell it is your first husband.
You talk as friends.

In the bathroom I am understanding
and jealous and cool

all at once. I stay there for
the next twenty minutes,

gazing into the mirror and scraping
at my face.

DIANNE BATES

TELEPHONE CALL

These days
we talk along
the thin wire
of distance.
Our voices bounce
through air
like bats.

It all sounds so polite, little sister.