

## Consumption's Many Layers

I choose drugstore chocolates  
- rectangular boxes  
of Whitman's dark and  
Russell Stover milk,  
wrapped in layers  
of longing and clear  
cellophane –  
not for the variety  
(brickle preferred to  
peanut chews, nougat  
favored over coconut,  
solid always  
coveted) or the price  
(two-for-one  
samplers, aka my muse),  
but for the reminder  
(chocolate messengers  
in every box) that even  
in persons, places,  
and times of sorrow  
for sale and consumption  
carefully monitored  
– medicines both  
balm and fortune teller –  
there is sweetness, too

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