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## A Minute Passes in Dresden, Or Sixty Seconds in the Day of a Life

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**A MINUTE PASSES IN DRESDEN,  
OR SIXTY SECONDS IN THE DAY OF A LIFE**

*Emily W. Recchia*

1. "Forget you," she says, "I'll take the kneecap"
2. The father breaks eggs carefully over the faucet. The mother frowns.
3. White tail feathers fight their way down the bloodied window.
4. A baby smiles for the first time.
5. Some fishermen catch a school of minnows. Too bad it wasn't trout.
6. A mannequin gets breast implants.
7. The librarian shelves her books like children.
8. Hyenas creep through the park; their cage has been unlocked.
9. Pasty building foundations crumble under the museum's harsh lights.
10. A policeman raises his fist.
11. A pair of newlyweds gasps in earnest under embroidered honeymoon sheets.
12. The rock music is too loud.
13. Canned asparagus split from an overburdened plastic bag.
14. A baker opens his shop to find all of the muffins gone.
15. Thieves lasso the moon. The sky tugs back.
16. Father and daughter slip down the stairs.
17. Curious boys look up the meaning of crustacean in Webster's Dictionary.
18. The dog refuses to fetch.
19. An obnoxious preview flickers and fades away before  
the movie no one wants to see comes on.
20. The judge sentences two men to the death penalty. Both are guilty.
21. The singer misses her cue.
22. Childhood friends make a blood-pact.
23. A bullfrog resigns himself to a life of captivity.
24. A teenager flips off his high school geometry teacher.  
Didn't she have it coming?
25. Pens run out of ink.
26. A wolf carries off lambs at random. The fables are true.
27. Everybody wants to dance with the farmer's daughter.
28. Power outage.
29. The spindle runs out of thread.
30. A foreign exchange student makes friends with a blond girl over breakfast.
31. Two minors break curfew.
32. A spaghetti dinner goes awry.
33. "If your bonnie lies over the ocean," she says,  
"then why don't you swim across that damn ocean?"
34. Best friends pretend to argue over prom dresses.  
They're actually practicing a Socratic dialogue.

35. A woman walks into the men's restroom.
36. Cats gang around the birdhouse, ready to pounce. A butterfly falls out.
37. Numbered bars fall flat off the piano.
38. Green chalk breaks outside under sticky fingers on the driveway.
39. The scuba diver's oxygen mask slips.
40. Refrigerated chocolate breaks in two.
41. Batteries explode, coating a toddler's hands with sticky residue.  
It wasn't her fault.
42. The sun chases the moon around the Eastern Hemisphere.  
The night has been outlawed.
43. An umbrella topples over in the wind like a miniature catapult.
44. A red pick-up truck runs over the perfect pinecone.
45. A child forgets his alphabet.
46. The man still doesn't know his multiplication timetables.
47. Dogs skulk under the table; they know when the food is coming.
48. Illiterate people cannot read stop signs.
49. The potted plant breaks under the unbearable weight of fake leaves.
50. A dressing gown is ripped open like a tapestry, like a siren.
51. The nursing home burns mystery meat.
52. Cigarette smoke isn't contagious, but stupidity is.
53. The plumber breaks his tooth on the toilet.
54. A flu shot is administered for the first time.  
Sometimes hospitals do more harm than good.
55. A calculator lies in shambles on the road.
56. The President tells a lie.
57. No one believes the boy who cried wolf.
58. A girl breaks her sister's Barbie, twisting off the head like a push-pop.
59. Two teenagers throw away a pregnancy test at Walgreens.
60. Destruction hits Dresden. It only takes one minute.