American Idol

Jen Levitt
I bought an electric toothbrush 
because the dentist said I wasn't thorough enough 
& wants to see me in two months. 
The therapist prophesied a near-recovery, 
predicted love would come eventually. 
When the conductor asked for my ticket, 
the reality was he'd been working 
for ten hours straight & could use a smoke break, 
but I had nothing to offer.

Now at night, I brush & brush to the whir 
of the small machine, screen my calls, 
put lettuce on tomorrow's sandwich. 
I imagine I'm being interviewed 
on a leather couch on a talk-show set 
& when I tell a story about middle school haircuts, everyone laughs. Outside, two teenagers argue over video game graphics. On TV, the finalists are forced to sing for their lives.