

Glass Key

The only key there is
is made of glass.
It slides in the lock.
But if you turn it too fast
the top will crack
leaving its thin grooved
filament inside.
In fact, that may happen
however you turn it.
And then? Will you
take the door
from its hinges,
flip it horizontal, tap
the back of the knob
to jostle shards loose?
But you can't unhinge
a locked door, and
the only key there is
is made of glass.
So you try a slight
upward pressure,
thumb against one
side of the key head
and feel tension
build in the material;
then you push
harder, and a little
harder, the glass taut
as a *pizzicato* string—
and stop, letting
the key
exhale, cool
in your fingers.
Better to slide it out.
Better to put it back
on the chain around
your neck, translucent,
all but unseeable
against your skin.