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# Early Night

Alan Soldofsky

*San Jose State University*, [alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu](mailto:alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu)

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## EARLY NIGHT

In early December  
    a cricket singing under the hedge  
of verbena beside the porch.

What lies the sun tells  
    of a few leaves stripped of their color,  
parenthesis of rust on the hinges of the car door.

High wisps of clouds  
    lit up by something  
that has fallen.

The edge of a storm front  
    faintly coming, a change in the smell  
of the air, a quiver in the wind.

The incipient darkness, smooth as licorice.  
    The only light in the house  
the one in the closet that's been left on.

The house quiet except for  
    the gnawing in the attic.  
The sound of a sound

that can barely hold the weight  
    of being heard, a remnant  
that ripples down the hallway

into the room where  
    you slept. Your books still  
dozing on the shelves waiting for you

to open them, or whatever  
    it is you will do  
when you get back to what you left.