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No Goodbye

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No Goodbye

– Constance Vogel

White uniforms, red-eyed hospital monitors
failed him while his wife was at home.

She mourned

she never had a chance to say goodbye.

A nurse said perhaps he hung on

until he was alone, to spare her;

sometimes they do that.

But guilt became as heavy

as his books and tools,

his winter coat

she must dispose of.

She tried to deadbolt her mind,

lose him at crowded parties,

drown him out in the depths of sleep,

but he filled the space between her sheets,

the robe that hung on the bathroom hook.

Like the raven he kept coming back,

tapping, ever rapping at her door.