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C. W. Schuler

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C. W. SCHULER

TESTAMENT

**This is the last, this is the last,
The shape of tomorrow can never be cast
As yesterday's sorrow dissolves in the past.
The last, the last:
Blood runs cool, and time runs fast.**

**The last is our chance to measure the cost;
This is the cost,
Of love and passion with lust embossed,
Of all the bridges we never crossed.
The cost, the cost:
When the blood congeals, desire is lost.**

**The cost is reckoned in terms of the least;
This is the least,
The residual deposit when love has ceased,
The end of the dance, the scraps from the feast.
The least, the least:
Life is forever by time decreased.**

**The least that is left is a pinch of dust;
This is the dust,
The last, the least, and the cost of trust,
That the proudest steel shall turn to rust.
The dust, the dust:
The least we can, the last we must.**

The dust.