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Schuyler Swartout

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THE ELM TREE
Schuyler Swartout

A flute-maker says to his wife, come inside, it's time for bed.
And the wife from the garden decides to come inside, into the
house of smoky wood and old drill-press shavings and the
bric-a-brac of a craftsman. As she pulls off her underclothes
he remarks, enlivened, I have found it, a perfect tree in the
forest, perfect fragrant wood and perfect grain and it's sure to
play perfect notes and I will be the stradivarius of
flutemakers. And the wife lies down, too tired to think
through the distant limbs bending to him, calling.